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Japan

Contradictory Reports, Commentary on Rice Issue

Tokyo Presents Compromise to U.S.

OW1510143193 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1002 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report, with recorded portion by unidentified NHK reporter; from "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] With the possibility of concluding the Uruguay Round within this year growing, in a bid to restrict opening the Japanese rice market to the maximum extent, the government has presented the United States and other nations with a compromise proposal that Japan will defer the liberalization of rice imports for six years in return for its acceptance of a GATT request for liberalizing rice imports.

[Begin NHK reporter recording] Given Diet resolutions rejecting any demand for liberalizing rice imports, the government has continued to officially oppose the rice tariffication offered by the GATT, claiming that rice tariffication will eventually lead to opening the Japanese rice market. With the majority of negotiating nations supporting the idea of tariffication without exception, however, concerns are growing within the government that if the Uruguay Round abruptly makes progress toward a conclusion within this year, Japan would be forced to unconditionally accept the rice tariffication offered by the GATT, leading to the opening of Japan's rice market. Faced with these developments, the government has come to believe that Japan can no longer avoid liberalizing rice imports since it supports conclusion of the Uruguay Round. The government has held working-level negotiations with the United States and other nations that are greatly interested in exporting rice to Japan despite its position against rice tariffication without exception. The government has been sounding out the United States and other nations about the compromise proposal under which Japan will initially import about 3-5 percent of the domestic rice consumption for six years, defer rice tariffication for six years, and soften the term in the rice tariffication that calls for lowering the rate of tariffs on imported rice after rice tariffication is introduced. In response to Japan's compromise proposal, the U.S. agriculture secretary said during his recent visit to Japan that desirable progress had been made in Japan-U.S. trade negotiations. The Uruguay Round is expected to focus discussion on the compromise proposal presented by Japan. [end recording]

The Comprehensive Agriculture Policy Council Chairman Yamamoto of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party and others this evening urged Prime Minister Hosokawa not to go along with the request from GATT for rice tariffication. In response, Prime Minister Hosokawa indicated anew that his government will uphold its conventional policy against rice tariffication.

During the meeting, Mr. Yamamoto and others asked that the government uphold its policy of pursuing self-sufficiency in rice and oppose rice tariffication that would lead to liberalizing rice imports. In response, Prime Minister Hosokawa said his government will uphold the conventional rice policy.

Meanwhile, a senior lawmaker of the ruling Social Democratic Party of Japan said: An agreement, that was reached among eight parties and the parliament group when they formed the present coalition government, includes their objection to rice tariffication without exception and we think of the agreement as an important one. Some take the view that the government must be given a free hand to handle foreign affairs, but rice tariffication is an exception.

Takemura: Compromise Discussed

OW1510133793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT
15 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 15 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura hinted Friday [15 October] that conditions for a compromise under which Japan would gradually open its market to foreign rice imports under tariffs have been discussed in Geneva.

Speaking to a daily press meeting, Takemura said he does not know the details of what is being discussed concerning Japan's rice market as part of the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Takemura denied, however, a news report that Japan and the U.S. were making progress on an agreement on the gradual tariffication of Japan's ban on rice import.

"The government has not reached an accord with the U.S. by making concrete proposals," he said. Takemura reiterated the government policy, saying Japan "will not relax its stance of opposing tariffication."

The leading daily ASAHI SHIMBUN reported in its evening edition Friday that Japan and the U.S. are negotiating a proposal to replace Japan's effective ban on rice imports with tariffs after a six-year moratorium. In a dispatch from Geneva, the paper said the proposal calls for Japan to introduce a tariffication scheme for rice imports after the moratorium, during which it will increase rice imports from 4.5 to 7.5 percent of its domestic consumption.

Several newspapers in Japan and abroad have published similar reports. The rice tariffication is considered an important element in completing the current round of GATT talks by a December 15 deadline.

JNP Denies Market Opening Plan

OW1510124693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT
15 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 15 KYODO—The Japan New Party (JNP) led by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on

Friday [15 October] flatly denied its reported plan to open Japan's rice market to foreign competition by replacing its long-standing import ban with tariffs. The JNP is not formulating a policy on rice production and distribution as reported in preparation for Tokyo's eventual acceptance of tariffication of its rice import ban into tariffs, acting party leader Satoshi Arai told reporters.

The nation's top selling daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN said in its evening edition that the 17-month-old party plans to propose continued buying of foreign rice even after the government plan to import rice as an emergency measure is completed.

The government recently decided to import about 200,000 tons of rice by the year-end as an initial installment to cope with the worst harvest in the postwar period.

Arai said the article is misleading in the sense it gives readers the impression that the JNP's reported policy will eventually develop into a policy of the ruling seven-party coalition. "It is very regrettable (the YOMIURI) compiled the article on a policy that has a tremendous impact on the whole nation without collecting information through official channels," he said.

He said the party will press the YOMIURI to correct its mistakes in the article.

Earlier, the JNP said it was in favor of lifting Japan's ban on rice imports to bring to a successful conclusion the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). But the party virtually shifted its stance on the matter in August, when it decided to form a coalition government with six other parties, most of which are opposed to the tariffication formula proposed at the end of 1991 by then GATT head Arthur Dunkel.

The formula calls for all nontariff restrictions on agricultural imports, including Japan's ban on rice imports, to be converted to tariffs without exception.

Despite the planned emergency rice import after bad summer weather devastated this year's crop, Japan has rejected opening the market of its staple grain on the grounds of "food security." The issue is one of the stumbling blocks to completion of the seven-year-old global trade talks, along with a farm trade dispute between the United States and the European Community (EC).

U.S. Rice Issue Demand Confirmed

OW1510124193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT
15 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 15 KYODO—The United States is proposing that Japan replace its ban on rice imports with tariffs after a six-year moratorium, government sources confirmed Friday [15 October], while denying reports Tokyo has agreed. The U.S. made the proposal at

informal talks in Geneva earlier this month involving key agriculture trade negotiators from both countries, the sources said.

During the six-year grace period, Japan would be required to import at least 3 percent of rice consumed, or about 300,000 tons, they said. The U.S. plan is a watered down version of a farm trade proposal under global talks which would require all nontariff barriers to be replaced with gradually declining tariffs.

Japan has strongly opposed the tariffication proposal put forward in the Uruguay Round trade talks held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The sources said the latest U.S. proposal is apparently aimed at giving a boost to the round, which has been stalled over a dispute between the U.S. and the European Community (EC) over how to slash farm subsidies. The U.S. and the EC agree on the tariffication proposal, allowing them to join forces in pressing Japan to accept it.

Round participants have agreed on a December 15 deadline for wrapping up the seven-year-old negotiations.

Farmers Want 'Shackles' Off

OW1510134093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT
15 Oct 93

["Rice Farmers Want to Cast Off Government-Imposed Shackles"—first in a three-part series on rice farmers by Kohei Murayama]

[Text] Ogata, Akita Pref., Oct. 15 KYODO—Japanese farmers are ready to meet the challenge of imported rice but want the government to remove the shackles placed on them in Japan's rigidly controlled rice market.

"We producers are facing the age of free rice imports when we still have no freedom to produce and to sell at home," says Toru Wakui, 45, a relatively young and enthusiastic farmer in northern Japan's Akita Prefecture, a key rice-growing area. He stresses that farmers are aware of the need for Japan to rely on imports sooner or later, although Japanese consumers only realized "accidentally" how serious the situation was because of this year's record poor rice harvest, which has forced the government to resort to emergency imports.

Farmers, however, cannot accept the government freeing the rice market without at the same time releasing them from its tight domestic control. Many farmers are worried that it could even be too late to revitalize the domestic farming industry after decades of stifling bureaucratic interference.

Under the banner of national food security, the Japanese Government has controlled domestic rice production and prices through the staple food control law enacted in

1942 during World War II. Instead of its "initial objective of protecting farmers," the law has led to a "farming life no better than servitude," Wakui says.

The government has for years been forcing farmers to take rice paddies out of production to prevent over-supply, thus imposing a heavy burden on Japanese farmers, whose average rice-growing area is less than a hectare per household.

Of the some 10 million tons of rice consumed annually in Japan, the government controls 55 percent—15 percent it buys directly from farmers and 40 percent controlled indirectly through designated markets. Some 5 percent is used for industrial processing and 40 percent is allowed to farmers to keep for their own use, but somehow or other, about 30 percent finds its way onto the black market.

Tadashi Kurose, 49, another rice grower, says these controls have discouraged younger people from farming, and rice farming is now on the verge of "hollowing out," with most farmers now aged over 60 and without successors. In this sense, Kurose says this year's rice shortage is a "manmade disaster" even though the poor harvest stems from the unusually cool and wet summer.

With its "year-by-year" decisions on rice stocks, the government has ignored the experience of 1984 when Japan had to import rice from South Korea as an emergency measure because of a bad domestic harvest, Kurose says.

Kurose and Wakui may be special because they are both farmers in Ogata, a new rice farming area with a history of only 25 years and with many enthusiastic farmers advocating free rice distribution to revitalize the industry. The area of rice paddy per household in Ogata is also, at 15 hectares, much bigger than the national average.

Ogata farmers have made headlines in disputes between the local farm authorities and producers practicing direct distribution.

Farmers from both the conservative and free-market camps in Ogata say that the disputes are only a "show," with employees of farm cooperatives—which help the government control the rice market—and the Food Agency worried about losing their jobs if the rice market opens. They even shared the view that farmers are suffering to secure jobs for those employees and bureaucrats.

One of the sources noted, "the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, with only about 8,000 employees, helped Japan grow into a leading economic power, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries undermined rice farming with over 38,000 employees." He said all the "anti-imports" demonstrations in Tokyo are organized by farm cooperatives and most of the farmers taking part are forced to join.

Things are worse in traditional rice villages where many farming households have either quit or also have income from other jobs. The government recently started easing its grip to encourage farmers, but "it's too late," says Zenichiro Ohashi, 72, a farmer in Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture.

Ohashi, who leads a typical farming village of 50 households, says all households in his village have income from other jobs and most of them pay the few remaining full-time farmers in Kashiwazaki to do the farming work for them.

In the 1960s, farmers found it easy to get jobs at plants built by companies seeking workers at relatively low pay in rural areas, Ohashi said. Improvements in agricultural machinery allowed farmers to continue farming their smallholdings at weekends and holidays.

As the government also indicated in its new farming plan mapped out recently, Ohashi says the only way to keep the currently producing rice paddies in operation is through large-scale farming. Noting that rice prices are soaring due to the old, inefficient controls, Wakui warns that the government should abandon the "illusion of Japan's rice-producing potential of 140 million tons."

GATT Proposes Minimum Access

OW 1610124393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 16 KYODO—Japan may accept a higher rice import ceiling than proposed in world trade talks in return for a six-year moratorium on the opening of its rice market, government sources said Saturday [16 October]. A proposal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) calls for a minimum access of 3 to 5 percent of Japan's annual rice consumption.

The sources made the remarks as Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa reaffirmed his commitment to Japan's farm policy barring rice imports, aides said. The aides said Hosokawa made the pledge in a meeting with Diet members of his own party, Japan New Party.

The government sources said a specific figure for the ceiling apparently is being discussed in Geneva by representatives of Japan and the United States.

The sources said it seems inevitable that Japan will have to accept a higher ceiling for rice imports if it wants to put off liberalization. They said the ceiling under discussion ranges from 4 to 8 percent, with Japan rejecting the 10 percent limit demanded by the U.S. Rice Millers Association.

The GATT proposal calls for Japan to import 3 percent of its consumption in the initial year, and that the rate be raised to 5 percent six years later.

The sources said Japan will keep rice imports under government control even after it accepts partial liberalization. They said the government has begun to study

specific tariff levels for 20 other farm import items in recognition that deregulation is unavoidable.

In a related development, an influential governing party leader indicated his party may accept tariffication of rice imports.

Ichiro Ozawa, a co-leader of Shinseito (The Japan Renewal Party), made the remark while commenting on a news report that Japan and the U.S. were near an accord on the thorny issue.

Hosokawa Reaffirms Farm Policy

*OW1610113093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa reaffirmed his commitment Saturday [16 October] to Japan's farm policy barring rice imports, aides said. The aides said Hosokawa made the pledge in a meeting with Diet members of his own party, Japan New Party.

"I am not considering a significant change" in Japan's rice policy, he was quoted as saying. His remark means that the coalition government will back Diet resolutions opposing the opening of Japan's rice market and that he has no intention of accepting a GATT proposal to replace the import ban with tariffs, the aides said.

The Diet has adopted resolutions three times in the past calling for self-sufficiency in the staple supply.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has proposed that Japan and other farm importing countries replace import restrictions with tariffs to break an impasse in multilateral trade liberalization talks.

Japan has come under growing pressure from the United States and other farm exporting countries to open its rice market to help bring the GATT talks to a successful conclusion. The Hosokawa government announced it will import over 1 million tons of rice on an emergency basis to make up for a supply shortage this year after the worst rice harvest in the country's postwar history.

In a related development, an influential governing coalition party leader indicated his party may accept the GATT-proposed tariffication of rice imports.

Ichiro Ozawa, a co-leader of the Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), made the remark while commenting on a news report that Japan and the U.S. are near an accord on the thorny issue.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, an economic daily, reported in a dispatch from Washington that the U.S. hopes Japan will shorten a six-year moratorium to around five years before it liberalizes the rice market and in the meantime import 4-8 percent of its domestic rice consumption.

OECD Official Urges Open Market

*OW1810110593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Japan needs to stop opposing comprehensive tariffication of traded goods, including rice, for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks to be achieved, a senior visiting OECD official said Monday [18 October].

"I think it will not be possible to take rice out of the negotiations and simply say Japan will live forever with total rice import protection," said Gerhard Abel, director for trade of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), at a press conference.

Abel said that Europeans, for example, could not make sacrifices if Japan simply says that nothing will change.

With respect to Japan's emergency rice import program in the wake of this year's poor harvest, Abel said it was "a sign from heaven, perhaps, in support of the Uruguay Round."

But the trade director said the odds are still 50-50 whether the long-stalled Uruguay Round would end successfully.

Meanwhile, Abel supported recent moves for greater integration by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, saying it is natural for countries to enhance ties within their region and that this is not something likely to cause conflict with organizations like the OECD.

Hosokawa Says No Compromise Plan

*OW1810053993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa denied Monday [18 October] that Japan had proposed a compromise plan to the United States on the rice issue. "The Japanese Government has not proposed (any compromise) nor reached (agreement)," Hosokawa said.

Hosokawa made the remark in a session of the special political reform committee of the House of Representatives, referring to press reports that Japan and the United States had kicked off negotiations on a proposal that would replace the rice import ban with tariffs under certain conditions.

"It is natural (for Japan) to make every effort to wrap up the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations within the end of the year," Hosokawa said. "(But) Japan will continue negotiations in line with the hitherto basic policies (barring rice imports)."

Japan's rice import ban is considered an obstacle to a successful conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-sponsored Uruguay Round of global trade talks by the December 15 deadline.

Government sources confirmed Friday the U.S. is proposing that Japan replace its ban on rice imports with tariffs after a six-year moratorium, while denying reports Tokyo has agreed. During the six-year grace period, Japan would be required to import at least 3 percent of rice consumed, or about 300,000 tons, the sources said.

Farm Minister Hata Comments

*OW1810054093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0519 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Farm Minister Eijiro Hata indicated Monday [18 October] Japan may accept "minimum access" of foreign rice but reiterated the government's opposition to replacing its rice ban with tariffs.

Asked at a hurriedly called press conference about the possibility of a partial opening of the Japanese rice market, Hata, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, said, "I can only say we will make every effort in line with our basic policy. That is a matter of negotiations."

Hata called the emergency news conference after several newspapers at home and abroad reported that Japan and the United States are negotiating a deal to grant Tokyo a six-year moratorium on replacing its rice ban with tariffs.

During the moratorium, Japan would import 3 to 5 percent of its domestic rice consumption.

Hata denied the news reports, saying there is neither agreement between Japan and the U.S. nor any compromise proposal.

"We cannot accept comprehensive tariffication," he said.

The minister said he thinks Japan's rice could be granted an exception to the tariffication scheme proposed by Arthur Dunkel, former director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Japan has been under growing pressure to lift its ban on rice imports to help spur the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under GATT in which disputes over farm trade reforms are the biggest stumbling block.

Hata said that at 17-nation informal farm talks last Friday in Geneva, South Korea and Canada supported Japan's basic stance to reject tariffication without exception.

With a December 15 deadline, the global trade talks are at a crucial stage, Hata said. He would, therefore, visit the GATT secretariat and other nations to press Japan's

case soon after GATT chief Peter Sutherland's four-day stay in Tokyo beginning Wednesday, Hata said.

'Sources' Say U.S. Asks Beef Tariff Cut

*OW1610134693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1331 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 16 KYODO—The United States asked Japan to slash the tariff rate on imported beef to 20 percent from the current 50 percent, government sources said Saturday [16 October]. The U.S. Government made the request in bilateral trade talks with Japan within the framework of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)'s Uruguay Round, they said.

In earlier trade talks with the U.S., Japan agreed to lower the tariff rate on imported beef by 10 percent annually, starting in fiscal 1991, when Japan had imposed a 70 percent tariff. The accord called for shifting the bilateral forum of discussion regarding the tariff rate for fiscal 1994 and thereafter to the Uruguay Round multilateral forum.

In March 1992, Japan proposed pegging the beef tariff rate at the current 50 percent for fiscal 1994 and subsequent years. Japan earlier proposed lowering the tariff ratio on some items of farm products out of a list of 40 agricultural products whose tariff rates the U.S. had asked Japan to cut.

Vice Finance Minister Comments on Trade Surplus

*OW1810093793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Japan's merchandise trade surplus swelled for the 33rd straight month in September to boost the fiscal half-year imbalance to a record high, the Finance Ministry said Monday [18 October]. For the six months through September, the country exported a record 60.07 billion dollars worth of goods more than it imported, marking a 15.2 percent increase for the surplus from the same period a year earlier, the ministry said.

The politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States climbed an unadjusted 13.9 percent for the half-year to 23.97 billion dollars.

Whether the surplus continues growing in the second half of the fiscal year depends heavily on such factors as the effect of the high yen on exports and imports and the impact of government pump-priming measures to spur domestic demand, a ministry official said.

The pace of increase in Japan's overall surplus is slowing, and should flatten and begin to recede by early 1994, said Chief Economist Masaru Takagi at Fuji Research Institute.

Exports for the half year rose 8.2 percent on a free-on-board basis from the year-earlier period to a record 181.77 billion dollars. Imports rose 5.0 percent on the basis of cost, insurance and freight to 121.70 billion dollars, the second highest on record, the ministry said.

Japan's September trade surplus rose 5.4 percent from a year before to 12.08 billion dollars, the 33rd straight monthly gain, boosting the half-year figure to the fifth straight increase. Exports for the month rose 6.0 percent to 31.63 billion dollars, while imports advanced 6.4 percent to 19.55 billion dollars.

The ministry official, briefing reporters on the monthly report, noted that the volume of exports basically leveled off in September from August, while imports posted their seventh straight monthly volume increase.

Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito noted that on a yen basis, the surplus has begun to decline, holding out hope that the closely watched dollar-base figures may show the same trend in the second half of the fiscal year. But Saito, in a later press conference, said he did not expect dramatic change soon.

The September pickup in imports was surprisingly large, Fuji Research's Takagi said, predicting that the effect of the high yen would begin to bring down the trade surplus by February, a year after the currency began the surge that brought it to a postwar high against the dollar in August.

The immediate effect of a high yen is to boost the dollar value of Japan's trade surplus without greatly affecting volume, but eventually it should cut the surplus by making exports more expensive in other currencies and imports cheaper in yen terms. The yen climbed 18.2 percent from a year before to an average 108.51 yen for the half year, the ministry official said.

Japan's volume of crude oil imports was steady in the half year, but the dollar value fell with the dropping price of crude oil, the ministry official said. The half-year increase in the trade surplus with the United States was the fourth in a row.

Exports to the U.S. of semiconductors climbed significantly in dollar terms, while those of steel fell, the official said. Imports of American semiconductors, cars and planes all rose.

Japan's half-year surplus with the European Community fell 22.0 percent to 12.72 billion dollars, with falling exports of cameras and videotape recorders, audio equipment and cars.

The surplus with other Asian countries climbed 37.3 percent to 28.55 billion dollars, with a 27.66 billion dollar surplus against the region's newly industrializing economies. Exports of semiconductors to Asia surged, while imports of petroleum products fell, but those of semiconductors and wood products jumped.

Tokyo To Liberalize More Public Works Projects

*OW1610123793 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1007 GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Announcer-read report over video; from "News 7" program]

[Text] The government has decided to open additional public works projects to foreign-based companies to break the deadlock over the Japan-U.S. construction talks. In addition to projects of the Construction Ministry, the government intends to open some construction projects administrated by the Transport, Education, and Welfare Ministries.

Under the construction negotiations, the United States is urging Japan to lift all prequalification rules on public works projects so that foreign-based companies can freely participate in biddings. If Japan does not liberalize the market by 1 November, the United States may impose economic sanctions against Japan.

In response, the government has already decided to open the Construction Ministry's projects to foreign companies by introducing biddings without prequalification rules. However, the Construction Ministry actually has direct control over only 8 percent of the public works projects.

Therefore, the government decided to additionally open projects ordered or partly sponsored by some other ministries. These include airport and port construction projects of the Transport Ministry, school and museum construction projects of the Education Ministry, and hospital construction projects administrated by the Health and Welfare Ministry.

The government intends to provide a package of liberalized projects as early as possible since it is seeking an early settlement of the construction negotiations with the United States.

Cuts Offered on Textiles, Nonferrous Metals

*OW1610031493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0244 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Geneva, Oct. 15 KYODO—Japan has offered tariff cuts on textiles and nonferrous metals at the global trade talks in Geneva in an apparent bid to show its firm involvement in negotiations, sources close to negotiators said Friday [15 October].

Japanese trade negotiators at the Uruguay Round of talks announced Tokyo's readiness to reduce textile tariffs by 50 percent on 150 items, or half of its textile tariff list. They also offered to sharply lower tariffs on nonferrous metals and harmonize them with other industrial nations.

At talks of the round's market access group, however, the Japanese team failed to make fresh offers on the sticky problem of its ban on rice imports, repeating that Tokyo

cannot accept a so-called "tariffication without exception." The tariff scheme calls for converting all nontariff barriers into tariffs which will then be reduced gradually, a proposal which Japan fears will lead to the opening of its rice market.

The sources also said the European Community (EC) will offer deeper industrial-product tariff cuts next week to follow the other three of the so-called "quad" countries—the United States, Canada, and Japan.

Tokyo Works on Construction Market Proposals

OW1510125293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 15 KYODO—Japan, in a bid to avoid U.S. sanctions, will promise Washington it will improve the public works bidding system to assure U.S. firms of greater access to the Japanese construction market, government sources said Friday [15 October]. The sources said the government will work out a set of new proposals for presentation to the next round of framework trade talks, scheduled to start next week.

The United States has threatened to impose sanctions on Japan if no satisfactory agreement is reached on the opening of Japan's construction market by November 1. The sources said Japan will tell Washington the scope of the conditional open bidding system which was introduced in September for public works projects to be undertaken by the government and public corporations, has been expanded to cover those implemented by local governments.

In the previous round of negotiations held in Hawaii, the U.S. demanded that Japan introduce an unconditional open bidding system. Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi told reporters the government will try to come up with a counterproposal within this month to obtain U.S. understanding.

The sources said Tokyo will refuse to abolish the "ranking" system and instead offer to simplify procedures for foreign participation in biddings, and recognize data on achievements overseas of foreign enterprises and their groups. Screening of foreign firms participating in biddings will be conducted by a neutral third party, they said.

Official Quoted on U.S. Telecommunications Talks

OW1510130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 15 KYODO—Japan and the United States remained at loggerheads over "objective criteria" to measure progress in expanding government procurement of foreign telecommunications equipment, a Japanese Government official indicated Friday [15 October]. Japan explained its basic stance in setting the criteria, either qualitative or quantitative, as agreed in July for

new bilateral trade framework talks, while reiterating its opposition to setting any future numerical target, the official said.

The official said the U.S. side offered a draft arrangement, including the objective criteria, during two days of talks that ended Friday on the telecommunications sector as part of the framework talks. But the Japanese side has yet to study thoroughly the U.S. proposal by the next session to be held in Washington, the official said.

The U.S. urged Japan to at least double the foreign share of its purchases of telecommunications goods over the next three to four years, by proposing to use a foreign share in the Japanese market as "objective criteria," a senior U.S. official suggested.

The U.S. negotiators told their Japanese counterparts that a foreign telecommunications products share stood at only 5 percent in Japan, compared with double-digit levels—11 to 38 percent—of foreign share in other leading industrial nations.

"We proposed measures to improve the Japanese Government procurement system," the U.S. official said. "We expect these measures to bring Japan into line with other (Group of Seven) countries within the medium term."

Port Calls by U.S. Nuclear Submarines Protested

OW1510124993 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] A U.S. Forces' nuclear-powered submarine called at White Beach in Katsuren town today. After a 30-minute stay, the submarine left the beach.

It was the Sturgeon-class Hawkbill nuclear-powered submarine belonging to the U.S. Navy. The submarine has a displacement of 4,250 tons. It is said that the purpose of its port call was to supply goods. According to the Maritime Self-Defense Force's Okinawa unit stationed at White Beach, the Hawkbill anchored off the beach at around 1000 this morning and left there after a 30-minute stay.

Local labor organizations staged a protest rally against the port call on a hill commanding the beach with about 50 members participating. During the rally, they demanded the suspension of port calls by nuclear-powered submarines. This was the 16th port call by a nuclear-powered submarine in Okinawa this year.

Group Returns From Visit to Shikotan 17 Oct

OW1710095593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido Pref., Oct. 17 KYODO—A group of 48 Japanese returned Sunday [17 October] from

a visa-free trip to Shikotan, one of four Russian-held islands claimed by Japan. It was the eighth this year in a series of visa-free exchange visits by Japanese to the disputed islands and by Russian islanders to Hokkaido.

The visit came less than a week after Russian President Boris Yeltsin's first state visit to Tokyo.

Japanese officials said that some Shikotan islanders hailed as a "courageous remark" the statement by Yeltsin that Moscow will honor all Japanese-Soviet agreements, including a 1956 Joint Declaration stipulating the eventual return of Shikotan island and the Habomai group of islets.

Japan is seeking the reversion of Kunashiri and Etorofu islands as well as Shikotan and the Habomai group. The islands were seized by Red Army troops at the end of World War II.

During a town meeting on Shikotan on Saturday night, a local assembly leader predicted that the territorial dispute would be settled while Yeltsin is in power, the Japanese officials said. But other Shikotan islanders told the visiting Japanese delegation they had doubts about Yeltsin's commitment to honor the 1956 Japanese-Soviet pact.

A Japanese delegate quoted a cannery factory manager on Shikotan as saying that the islanders are worried about their future should the island revert to Japanese control.

A Shikotan official said that at least 1,000 people of the island's 7,500 population may leave within the next two years if the economic slump continues. The economic hardship stems in part from Moscow's reluctance to make capital investment on the island, the official said.

Russian Alleged Nuclear Waste Dumping Reported

Greenpeace Reports on Dumping

OW1810000193 Tokyo KYODO in English 2347 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] London, Oct. 17 KYODO—A Russian Navy convoy dumped a shipload of containers filled with liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan over a 10-hour period starting at 8 A.M. (Japan time) Sunday [17 October], the international environmental group Greenpeace said.

Greenpeace estimated the Russian vessel TNT 27 was loaded with some 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste, such as cooling water and washing water, following the dismantlement of Russian Pacific fleet nuclear-powered ships.

But Greenpeace said it is unclear whether all the waste was dumped. It said crew members of the ship MV

Greenpeace, trailing the Russian convoy, measured airborne radiation at from 10 to 70 times the levels around the dump ship.

A small-sized boat from the MV Greenpeace approached the TNT 27 within 15 meters for measuring airborne radiation.

The Russian convoy—the TNT 27 and a tug plus another scientific monitoring vessel—dumped the nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan some 550 kilometers west of Hakodate in southwestern Hokkaido, Greenpeace said. The dump site is located some 190 kilometers southeast of Vladivostok, Russia.

The three Russian ships left the location at 6 P.M. Japan time and were heading northwest at 5.56 kilometers per hour.

Greenpeace said the Russian convoy was returning to a port in Pavlovsk, a major submarine base, to load another 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste. The TNT 27 left Pavlovsk on Saturday morning, Greenpeace said.

Ship Reported Leaving Naval Port

OW1610153493 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1001 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] After an 11 month suspension, the Russian Pacific Fleet [RPF] headquartered in Vladivostok has resumed dumping into the Sea of Japan nuclear waste produced by nuclear submarines. A ship carrying radioactive waste left a naval port located outside of Vladivostok this afternoon. NHK was informed of this today by the international environmental protection agency Greenpeace, which has been observing movements related to the dumping of nuclear waste.

This afternoon a ship carrying radioactive waste left Pavlovsk, a nuclear submarine base located east of Vladivostok. This ship is specially designed for the dumping of waste and is capable of carrying a maximum 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste.

According to Greenpeace, another ship believed to measure the levels of radiation is accompanying the first ship. Reportedly, they are sailing toward the Sea of Japan off the coast of the Maritime Kray.

The RPF has been dumping radioactive waste produced by nuclear submarines into the oceans—including the Sea of Japan—for about 30 years. However, it suspended the dumping of waste in November last year; the RPF declared it would stop the dumping of solid waste, but said it could not help but continue the dumping of liquid waste. If the radioactive material aboard the ship is actually dumped into the ocean, the RPF will have resumed such dumping after only an 11 month suspension.

Greenpeace said it was obvious the Russian Government authorized resumption of the dumping. Therefore, Greenpeace announced it will strongly demand the Russian Government immediately cease such activities.

It seems the RPF has decided to resume the dumping of waste because its radioactive waste storage facilities are full, and unless it resumes dumping it will be forced to stop nuclear submarine activities.

The RPF has about 60 nuclear powered submarines which produce various radioactive wastes, including used nuclear fuel and the water used to cool nuclear reactors. There is no ground storage facilities for low-level radioactive liquid waste. It is believed the radioactive waste to be dumped this time is low-level liquid radiation. In the past, such liquid waste was dumped into the ocean after temporarily being stored in specially designed ships.

The RPF has suspended the dumping of waste for nearly a year. Therefore, its nuclear submarines are on the verge of being forced to stop their activities because the storage containers are full.

To ease this situation, Russia decided to resume the dumping of waste immediately after President Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Countries which signed the London Treaty agreed to stop the dumping of radioactive waste after 1983. Moreover, serious concerns were expressed in the Tokyo Declaration announced following the recent Russo-Japanese summit. The recent movement regarding the dumping of waste will create a stir in relations between Japan and Russia.

Russia Pledges To Offer Data

*OW1710123393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT
17 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 17 KYODO—Russia vowed Sunday [17 October] to provide a full accounting if it is found that its Navy was dumping nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan as alleged by environmentalists, a Japanese official said. Koki Ishii, a legislator of the Japan New Party, said that the Russian Foreign Ministry made the pledge when he phoned Moscow to find out if the reports were true.

The Greenpeace environmental group said Russian tankers had begun dumping nuclear waste into waters 240 nautical miles west of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island.

Russian officials promised that data would be made available through its embassy in Tokyo once it is confirmed the nuclear waste was dumped.

Ishii said that in lodging protest at the reported dumping, he urged Russia to abandon the practice, saying that the people of Japan are strongly opposed to

such activities. He said the dumping could hamper promised financial assistance on helping Russia to dispose of its nuclear waste.

During last week's three-day visit to Japan, President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa agreed to set up a joint working group to deal with the nuclear issue. Greenpeace said the Russian Navy dropped a shipload of liquid radioactive waste off Hokkaido on Sunday morning.

Russia formally acknowledged in March that it and the former Soviet Union had dumped radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan, the Sea of Okhotsk, the north Pacific, and the Barents Sea between 1959 and 1992. The dumping would violate the international London Convention, which put a moratorium on such activities in 1983, Greenpeace said.

Akita Mayor Seeks Halt to Dumping

*OW1810104593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Akita, Oct. 18 KYODO—The Mayor of Akita in northeast Japan on Monday [18 October] asked his counterpart in Vladivostok, its sister city in the Russian Far East, to urge the Russian Navy to stop further dumping of nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan, city officials said.

Akita Mayor Renjiro Ishikawa made the request in a letter to Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Ivanovich Cherephov in response to reports on the dumping of liquid radioactive waste, the officials said. Ishikawa said the dumping is very regrettable from the viewpoint of peaceful use of the sea, protection of resources and conservation of the global environment, they said.

The mayors have visited each other since Akita and Vladivostok signed an agreement on sister city relations in June 1992, they said.

Ishikawa on Monday also asked for cooperation to Niigata Mayor Yoshiaki Hasegawa, who chairs the meetings of Japanese and Russian mayors of the cities facing the Sea of Japan, they said.

He told Hasegawa to make similar requests to Russian Mayors involved in the meetings, they said.

Protesters March on Russian Embassy

*OW1810102793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Dozens of protesters gathered in front of the Russian Embassy on Monday [18 October] to demand an end to the dumping at sea of Russian nuclear waste. But an embassy spokesman indicated that dumping in the Sea of Japan would continue because Russia lacks the ability to process the hazardous nuclear waste, according to activists who were allowed into the embassy complex.

Attache Aleksandr Ilyshev said that while the embassy has received no official confirmation of the most recent dumping at the weekend, Russia has "no alternative," Jinzaburo Takagi, head of the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center, told reporters after meeting with the official.

Takagi said the waste could contaminate fishing nets and put fishing industry employees at risk, but that it was unlikely to pose an immediate health threat to consumers.

Naoki Ohara, the executive director of Greenpeace Japan, who met Ilyshev separately, said he was told Russia will seek technical cooperation from Japan at an upcoming working group meeting to find other ways of disposing of radioactive waste.

Earlier in the day, the Russian Navy tanker obstructed efforts by a Greenpeace International vessel to measure radiation by spraying water at the environmentalists' rubber boat, the Japan branch said.

In Tokyo, protesters from half a dozen environment and labor groups crowded the narrow sidewalk in front of the embassy gate, bearing signs in Japanese, Russian and English warning about the dangers of polluting the seas with radioactivity.

"The radioactive waste may not cause problems over the next 10 to 20 years, but after we die it could affect our grandchildren and great-grandchildren," said copywriter Kiyomi Takashima, 32, one of the 500 members of the antiplutonium group called Rainbow Serpent. "Dumping at sea is irresponsible," she said.

American Laurie Bruno, 30, from the Yokohama-based Environmental Group Global Village, said, "this is a big deal to protest because of the potential damage to the sea and nearby countries." Greenpeace officials said they believe that Russia is planning to dump another 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste shortly.

Tokyo Protests Reported Dumping

*OW1810092293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Japan protested Russia's reported dumping of radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan in a meeting Monday [18 October] with the Russian ambassador to Japan, Foreign Ministry officials said. Akira Hayashi, ministry's director general for arms control and scientific affairs, made the protest in a 15-minute meeting with Lyudvig Aleksandrovich Chizhov at the Foreign Ministry, the officials said.

Hayashi told Chizhov the Japanese Embassy in Moscow is currently investigating the incident and said if reports on the dumping are true it is "extremely regrettable," they said. He urged Chizhov to provide information as early as possible and reiterated Japan's call to immediately stop disposal of radioactive waste, the officials said.

Japan made the same request during summit talks last week between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Chizhov replied that he has not received information from Moscow, but added he will report to the Japanese Foreign Ministry as soon as he receives word from the Russian Government, they said.

The Russian ambassador said his country has already halted disposal of solidified radioactive waste, but that it could not at this point stop dumping liquefied waste due to "technical reasons," the officials said. The officials said Chizhov did not elaborate on the "technical" problems, but said it was an apparent reference to both legal and social problems.

Chizhov's remarks were in line with a Russian Government White Paper on disposal of radioactive waste in waters near Japan, which was issued in April, according to the officials.

Greenpeace International reported Sunday that a Russian Navy vessel was dumping radioactive waste into the sea some 550 kilometers west of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido and some 190 kilometers southeast of Vladivostok. The London-based environmental group said airborne radiation levels at the site were 10 to 70 times higher than normal background levels.

The Foreign Ministry officials said Japan and Russia are scheduled to hold a second working-level meeting in Moscow on November 10 and 11 to discuss launching joint investigation of nuclear waste disposal into the sea of Japan as early as the end of the year. The first meeting was held in May.

The latest Russian dumping may be discussed in the talks, the officials said, but added that the top priority of the meeting is to conduct a joint investigation as early as possible.

Earlier in the day, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said the government was not notified of the dumping in advance as indicated in an INTERFAX news agency report from Moscow. The report quoted a high-ranking Kremlin official as saying Russia informed the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Secretariat of the London Convention on Pollution of Seawater and "countries concerned" on the dumping two weeks ago.

Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito also denied in a press conference that Japan was notified in advance of the dumping. He said Japan will continue to urge Russia to immediately cease dumping both solidified and liquefied nuclear waste into the ocean and to abide by international frameworks concerning the problem.

The London Convention bans dumping high-level radioactive waste at sea and requires advance notification when dumping low-level radioactive waste.

According to ministry officials, member nations of the London Convention adopted a resolution in 1983 to suspend dumping of low-level radioactive waste for a certain period. But at the time, the former Soviet Union reserved the resolution, the officials said.

The resolution does not have any legal binding force, they said.

Saito said Tokyo will seek ways to solve the problem through joint investigations and will also study Japanese cooperation. He said he hopes the latest incident will not lead to further deteriorated relations between Japan and Russia.

Tokyo Considers Use of Grant

*OW1810091093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Japan is considering using part of its 100 million dollar grant for Russian nuclear disarmament on measures to keep Russia from dumping nuclear waste in the sea, officials said Monday [18 October]. The idea emerged in the wake of revelations that the Russian Navy has dumped liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan, the officials said.

The government is studying how to help Russia construct land facilities to dispose of liquid radioactive waste with Japanese funding and technology. Government ministries and agencies concerned, including the foreign and international trade and industry ministries and the Science and Technology Agency, will discuss details of a proposal to be put to Russia during a bilateral working group meeting in Moscow scheduled for November 10 to 11.

In April, at a ministerial meeting of the Group of Seven major industrial nations, Japan announced a 100 million dollar aid package to help Russia dismantle its nuclear weapons. The assistance is to cover five areas, such as storage of plutonium extracted from nuclear arms and measures to cope with environmental pollution, the officials said.

Since Russian agreement is required to use the grant for measures against environmental pollution, Japan will discuss the issue at the coming meeting, they said. Russia has said it will build land facilities so as to stop dumping its nuclear waste at sea and to this end has made preparations for legislation.

The officials said, however, it is possible that the building of waste disposal facilities could be deemed military cooperation if they can also be used to maintain atomic powered submarines. The government will therefore check on this before deciding on using the grant for this purpose, they said.

Spokesman: No More Dumping Planned

*OW1810082993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0815 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Russia has no plans to follow up Sunday's [17 October] dumping of liquid nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan with a second dumping, a spokesman for the Russian Pacific Fleet said Monday. In a telephone interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the spokesman said that dumping work has finished.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Russian Fleet, Adm. Georgiy Gurinov, said that Russian authorities informed the International Atomic Energy Agency in advance of Sunday's dumping, according to ITAR-TASS news agency.

The action was also undertaken in strict accordance with the regulations of Russia's Environment and Natural Resources Ministry, the press service of the Pacific fleet told ITAR-TASS.

The degree of radioactivity of the waste is in accord with the established standards and poses no danger to the environment, the fleet's press service said. "Nonetheless, if there was nothing prejudicial about this action, why was it concealed from the public? Why were the media and the Far Eastern environmental services not notified in advance? These questions are awaiting clarification," ITAR-TASS said.

The Russian Navy tanker TNT 27 set off international criticism by dumping 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan some 550 kilometers west of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on Sunday.

Takemura Says No Advance Notice

*OW1810044293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0415 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Japan received no advance notice of Russia's reported dumping of radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Monday [18 October]. The remark by the top government spokesman followed a report from Moscow by the INTERFAX NEWS AGENCY that a high-ranking Kremlin official said Russia had two weeks ago informed the International Atomic Energy Agency, the secretariat of the London Convention on Pollution of Seawater and "countries concerned" on the dumping.

Takemura told a news conference that the Japanese Government is now trying to confirm the dumping, which, "if it were true, would be very regrettable."

Greenpeace International reported Sunday that a Russian Navy vessel the same day dumped radioactive waste

into the sea some 550 kilometers west of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido and some 190 kilometers southeast of Vladivostok. The London-based environmental group said airborne radiation levels at the site were 10 to 17 times higher than normal background levels.

Takemura said the government has contacted Moscow through diplomatic channels on the matter but has yet to receive a reply. Japan will renew its call on Moscow to immediately discontinue dumping of nuclear waste into the oceans, he said.

The Tokyo Declaration, issued last week at the end of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's state visit to Japan, says Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Yeltsin "confirm that the ocean dumping of radioactive wastes raises a grave concern on a global scale, particularly due to its effects on the environment of the neighboring countries."

The document also says the two leaders "agree to consult closely through the Japan-Russia working group to consider the problem further."

Takemura also spoke of the need for an on-the-spot investigation by Japan of Russia's dumping of radioactive wastes into the Sea of Japan.

Protest Planned Upon Confirmation

OW1810035193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0332 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday [18 October] his government will lodge a protest with Russia if a report that the Russian Navy has dumped radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan is confirmed.

Hosokawa told reporters of the planned protest one day after Greenpeace International reported that a Russian naval vessel dumped a shipload of containers filled with liquid radioactive waste into the sea from Sunday morning through the evening.

Hosokawa denied that Russia has given prior notice to Japan of the dumping of some 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste from dismantled nuclear-powered ships of the Russian Pacific fleet. Satsuki Eda, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, told the House of Representatives that Japan will demand Russia suspend the dumping if it is confirmed.

According to the Moscow-based INTERFAX news agency, a senior Russian Government official confirmed Sunday that a Russian Navy vessel dumped the radioactive waste into the sea but he said the government has given notice to international organizations and foreign countries.

Greenpeace reported from London on Sunday that the Russian naval vessel TNT 27, accompanied by two other ships, carried an estimated 900 tons of liquid radioactive

waste and dumped it in the Sea of Japan some 550 kilometers west of Hakodate in southwestern Hokkaido. Crew members of the ship MV Greenpeace, trailing the Russian ships, measured airborne radiation around the site at from 10 to 70 times normal background levels.

After the completing of the dumping Sunday evening, the Russian ships were heading for the port of Pavlovsk, a major submarine base, to load another 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste, Greenpeace said.

Portuguese President Soares Arrives in Tokyo

OW1810044993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Portuguese President Mario Soares arrived in Tokyo from Seoul on Monday [18 October] for a 10-day visit to Japan. His visit marks the 450th anniversary of the arrival of three Portuguese castaways who in 1543 became the first Europeans to land in Japan and also introduced firearms into Japan.

In talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Tuesday, Soares is expected to take up the issue of human rights violations in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. They will also discuss stepped-up Japanese investment in Portugal, Foreign Ministry officials said.

During his stay in Tokyo, he will have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

He is also scheduled to visit Tanegashima Island, south of Kyushu, on the shores of which the three castaways were washed up on October 27, 1543. Soares is to leave Japan on October 27 for Hong Kong. h1

Hosokawa Urged To Support East Timor Rights

OW1810073793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By Mutsuo Fukushima]

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is under suprapartisan parliamentary calls to throw Japan's moral weight behind Portugal's call for defense of human rights in its former colony of East Timor, now under Indonesian rule. The appeal by 12 legislators from seven parties comes just before his talks on Tuesday [19 October] with Portuguese President Mario Soares, a critic of Jakarta's reported repression of East Timorese rights.

The appeal calls for expressing Japanese readiness to urge Jakarta to put less restrictions on foreign doctors and human rights groups who enter East Timor. It also backs a Portuguese call to allow the people of East Timor to call a referendum on independence.

In addition, it calls on Hosokawa to support Portugal's position in foreign ministerial talks with Indonesia that have been held under the auspices of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The Japanese parliamentarians are from seven parties—the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, Shinseito, the Japan New Party, Sakigake, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Portuguese expectations are also running high, with a senior diplomat noting Hosokawa's record as a signatory to last year's petition by 289 Japanese-U.S. legislators asking Butrus-Ghali to mitigate the islanders' agony.

"Mr. Hosokawa has a good record of giving his signature to a petition in 1992 from Japanese and U.S. lawmakers asking the United Nations to protect East Timorese rights," said Jose Pereira, the Portuguese Embassy's first secretary.

The petition—co-signed by 152 U.S. lawmakers and 142 Japanese legislators—urged an investigation of the reported executions, torture, arbitrary arrests and suppression of freedom of speech.

It cited a videotaped incident in Santa Cruz cemetery in the East Timorese capital of Dili on November 12, 1991, in which Indonesian troops shot into crowds of mourners at the funeral of a pro-independence student activist. Jakarta says 50 civilians were killed in the shooting, but eye-witnesses claimed the number of casualties was much higher.

Indonesia invaded East Timor shortly after the Portuguese colonial administration left in 1975. Jakarta annexed the territory in 1976.

"The world will see whether Japan will live up to the principle of human rights Hosokawa vowed to pursue at the U.N. General Assembly, where he expressed Japan's determination to speak up for human rights," said Tomiko Okazaki, a Social Democratic Party legislator, one of the 12 legislators who appealed to Hosokawa.

Japan is Indonesia's largest aid donor, with its 1991 aid amounting to 235 billion yen. Following the 1991 Persian Gulf war, Japan imported a greater amount of Indonesian oil in view of the need to diversify the sources of oil importations.

The United Nations Security Council adopted resolutions twice in the past calling on Indonesia to soften its reported repression in East Timor.

"Our view is that human rights suppression by Indonesia took place in East Timor," a Foreign Ministry official told KYODO NEWS SERVICE. "Japan will insist on what it should insist on in regards to the issue of human rights, as one's readiness to speak up for human rights is a measure of the maturity of an industrial democracy."

Gangster Sentenced for Smuggling of Chinese

OW1810053393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Kushiro, Oct. 18 KYODO—A judge sentenced a gangster to three-and-a-half years in jail Monday [18

October] for his role in the smuggling into Japan of some 100 Chinese in June. Judge Yasuyuki Tsuchiya said Yukio Yamauchi showed by his actions that he was "blinded by a desire for considerable financial gain."

Yamauchi is a member of a gang affiliated with the Sumiyoshi-Kai, one of the country's three major underworld syndicates. Tsuchiya said Yamauchi joined the 99-ton squid-fishing boat No. 28 Hosho Maru in Ohata, Aomori Prefecture, on May 12.

The boat arrived in the Taiwan Strait in late May and took on some 100 Chinese sent by Yang Yulin, 36, a leading member of one of China's gangs of smugglers known as "snake heads." Yang is currently on an international wanted list.

The boat arrived in Akkeshi, eastern Hokkaido, on June 11. The Chinese were then transported in two refrigerator vans to the towns of Niiza and Wako in Saitama Prefecture, bordering Tokyo, where Yamauchi then received about 16 million yen from the Chinese gang.

Prosecutors also indicted the crew of the boat, nine illegal Chinese immigrants, and a gang of 10 Taiwanese believed responsible for setting up the deal.

Six of the Taiwanese have been sentenced to jail terms of between 14 and 24 months. The nine illegal Chinese immigrants have been given suspended sentences and will be deported.

The case was uncovered after a local fisherman found the No. 28 Hosho Maru abandoned at the port on June 16 and police investigators discovered remains of Chinese food, newspapers and magazines on board.

France Tries To Sell Environmental Technology

OW1510132893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 15 KYODO—France wants to sell Japan technology for water treatment, industrial waste disposal and clean energy creation, French Environment Minister Michel Barnier said Friday [15 October]. Barnier, who arrived in Tokyo on Friday for a three-day visit to Japan, told journalists the three industrial sectors are where France has technological advantages over Japan.

Barnier is leading a 26-member delegation of government officials and representatives from the environmental clean-up and winter sports industries in France. On Friday, Barnier met with the director general of the Environment Agency, Wakako Hironaka, and Minister for International Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kumagai.

On Saturday, he will travel to Nagano where he will tour the city and inspect preparations for the 1998 winter Olympic games where citizens groups have protested the destruction of the natural environment to construct sports facilities. Barnier was head of the organizing committee for the 1992 winter Olympics in Albertville, France. He will leave Japan for South Korea on Sunday.

OECD Urges Forming National Environment Policy*OW1610024993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0156 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 16 KYODO—An international economic cooperation group urges Japan to form environmental programs on a national level and scrap independent policy implementation through various government ministries, according to a report released Saturday [16 October].

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in a draft report to Japan, said the Japanese Government needs to shape more comprehensive programs and set more specific national targets to solve the nation's environmental problems. The report makes recommendations and suggestions regarding Japan's environmental policy over the next 20 years.

The OECD rapped the Japanese Government for its tackling of environmental problems, saying, "each of the ministries appears to make for competition rather than cooperation (on the issue). They are dealing (with the issue) independently."

The international organization urged Japan to set numerical targets regarding conservation and pollution reduction. On environmental assessment procedures, the report said they should be legalized and applicable by governments and enterprises.

The report also calls on Japan to take more measures to introduce environment usage taxes and surcharges, saying Japan has done less than the United States, Britain and other OECD member countries.

Japan and the OECD will exchange views on the report on November 1 and 2, government officials said. The international organization will compile its final report next January.

Hosokawa Says Tokyo May Compromise on Reform*OW1810111193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday [18 October] that the coalition government may compromise with the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) over two sets of political and electoral reform bills proposed by both sides. The prime minister vowed to push the bills through the House of Representatives by around November 5, saying a further delay in the parliamentary schedule would make it impossible for his administration to enact the bills by the end of the year.

Hosokawa made the remarks at a session of the political reform special committee of the lower house, which kicked off full-fledged deliberations the same day on the

government-proposed package of four political and electoral reform bills. The committee will begin deliberations on the LDP-proposed bills on Tuesday.

Hosokawa earlier indicated that he would resign if he failed to achieve political reform within the year. The current extraordinary Diet session ends on December 15.

"I would like to get a perfect score, but it is the basis of parliament system to be patient with 70 or 80 points," Hosokawa said.

The coalition government, which took over from the scandal-tainted LDP in August after the LDP failed to win its majority in the July 18 lower house election, has placed top priority on political reform to clean up the country's corrupt political system. The LDP had held power for 38 years.

Previous LDP governments of Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa collapsed after they failed to achieve political reform.

"Legislating these bills would enable the government to counteract various problems Japan faces domestically and abroad," Hosokawa said. Under the Constitution, the government needs to secure the passage of the bills through both the lower chamber and the House of Councillors.

The government bills call for replacing the multiseat electoral district system for the current 511-seat lower chamber with a combination of 250 single-seat constituencies and proportional representation for the remaining 250 seats.

The LDP bills call for replacing the current lower house election system with a combination of 300 single-seat constituencies and 171 under proportional representation.

The parity in the number of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation of the government bills would reflect public opinion most appropriately, he said. The bills would allow business companies to hand over political donations only to political parties, while prohibiting individual politicians from accepting donations from corporate donors.

The LDP bills would allow individual candidates to accept corporate donations through their funds-raising organizations.

The government bills also propose allowing voters to cast two ballots each—one for a single-seat district and one for proportional representation in a nationwide constituency.

The LDP version suggests a one-vote system, under which votes cast for candidates in single-seat constituencies would be counted as votes for candidates named in each party's proportional representation at the same time.

Under the government plan, a system would be created to subsidize political parties with about 41.4 billion yen or 335 yen per citizen from the state coffers.

In the LDP version, the government subsidy to political parties would amount to 30.9 billion yen, or 250 yen per citizen.

Diet Starts Full-Scale Debate on Reform Bills

OW1810094393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—The House of Representatives on Monday [18 October] kicked off full-fledged deliberations on the government-proposed package of four political and electoral system reform bills. "Legislating these bills would enable the government to counteract various problems Japan faces domestically and abroad," Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told the lower house's political reform research special committee.

The prime minister vowed to push the bills through the lower chamber by around November 5, saying a further delay in the parliamentary schedule would make it impossible for his administration to enact the bills by the end of the year.

Hosokawa earlier suggested that he would quit the premiership if he failed to achieve political reform within the year. The current extraordinary Diet session ends on December 15.

Under the Constitution, the government needs to secure the passage of the bills through both chambers of the Diet. Following the passage of the bills in the lower chamber, the government is required to secure endorsement by the House of Councillors.

The government bills call for replacing the current multi-seat constituency system for the lower chamber with a combination of 250 single-seat electoral districts and proportional representation for the remaining 250 seats.

The bills would allow business firms to hand over political donations only to political parties and their funds-raising organizations, while barring individual politicians from accepting donations from corporate donors.

The coalition government took over from the scandal-tainted Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in August after the LDP, which had held power for 38 years, failed to win its majority in the July 18 lower house election.

The seven-party coalition government has placed top priority on cleaning up Japan's corrupt political system. Previous LDP governments of Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa collapsed after they failed to achieve political reform.

The government bills also propose allowing voters to cast two ballots—one for single-seat districts and the other for proportional representation in a nationwide constituency.

Alternative bills put forward by the LDP call for replacing the current 511-seat lower chamber with a combination of 300 single-seat constituencies and 171 under proportional representation.

The committee will begin deliberations on the LDP bills on Tuesday. The LDP bills propose a one-vote system, under which votes cast for candidates in single-seat constituencies would be counted again for candidates named in each party's proportional representation list.

Concerning political funding, the LDP bills would allow individual candidates to accept corporate donations through their funds-raising organizations.

Under the government bills, corporations could only donate to political parties, which would distribute campaign funds to individual politicians by adding a government subsidy of some 41.4 billion yen a year.

In the LDP version, the government subsidy would amount to 30.9 billion yen, that would be split in proportion to the number of seats garnered by each party in national elections, as in the government bills.

Hosokawa Hopes Bills To Pass by Early Nov

OW1810055593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0306 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report over video—from the "NHK News Program"]

[Text] Deliberations on political reform started today [18 October] at a session of the House of Representatives Special Committee on Political Reform. At the session, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said it was necessary for the government's political reform bills to pass the House of Representatives early next month to meet the coalition government's plan that all political reform bills will be approved during the current Diet session.

[Begin recording] [Ikuo Horigome from the Social Democratic Party of Japan] I think the introduction of the Heiritsu-sei [an electoral system for the House of Representatives combining single-seat constituencies with proportional representation] will prove to be an advantage to the biggest party. To maintain and develop the ruling coalition government further, it is necessary for the coalition parties to cooperate in elections.

[Prime Minister Hosokawa] I understand there are various forms of election cooperation. I think the ruling coalition parties must not only cooperate in elections, but also establish a steady, cooperative relationship as soon as possible.

[Takeshi Noda, of the Liberal Democratic Party] It has been reported that the government and the ruling parties

have confirmed that government political reform bills must pass the House of Representatives without revision by 5 November. Is that true?

[Prime Minister Hosokawa] I am not sure about the concrete date for the passage. But, in a recent liaison meeting, the government and the ruling parties discussed the issue and agreed that if the political reform bills do not pass the House of Representatives by early November, it will very difficult to approve them by the end of this year in view of the tight schedule this session in the House of Councillors. [end recording]

Prime Minister Hosokawa's remarks indicated that the government's political reform bills must pass the House of Representatives by early next month if they are to be approved in the current Diet session.

Prosecutors Rearrest Former Mayor of Sendai

OW1810082193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Prosecutors again arrested former Sendai Mayor Toru Ishii on Monday [18 October] on suspicion of taking a 20 million yen bribe from major construction company Taisei Corp. Ishii has been under detention since his arrest in July on suspicion of taking bribes from another contractor, Hazama Corp.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors office said it also indicted the former Governor of Miyagi Prefecture, Shuntaro Honma, on a bribery charge. He was arrested in September on suspicion of receiving a 20 million yen bribe from Taisei.

LDP Considers Summoning of TV Asahi Officials

OW1510133493 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], said at a news conference today that his party may demand summoning to the Diet of officials of Asahi National Broadcasting Company [TV Asahi]. The television company allegedly added intentional bias in the station's coverage of the latest general elections so that the LDP is defeated in the elections.

Secretary General Mori said the Diet must investigate what the TV station really did during the elections. However, he added this issue should be handled as a slip of the tongue made by the former chief of the TV Asahi news service bureau, rather than a question of the entire mass media's attitude toward political circles.

Press Discusses TV's 'Meddling' in Politics

OW1710070293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] The National Press Convention being held in Niigata today [16 October] took up for discussion the reports that around the time of the last general election, the then chief of TV Asahi's news bureau instructed his staff to report in such a way as to help the birth of a non-Liberal Democratic Party government. Some people attending the event called the former bureau chief's action problematic from the viewpoint of ethics expected of the mass media, and expressed concern about television stations' interference in politics.

On the fifth day of the convention, today, an emergency roundtable debate was held to discuss the issue. Some attending the debate complained that political news programs of commercial television stations tend to favor newly born parties. They insisted that this is a problem of ethics for the mass media that comes before the question of whether or not it violated the Broadcasting Law or the Election Law.

Some called for caution so that television programs would not become means of unjustly meddling in power, and warned against commercial television stations interfering in politics.

Tsuneo Watanabe, president of YOMIURI SHIMBUN, who attended the debate as a panelist, recalled that the former chief of TV Asahi's news bureau wrote in a journal issued by the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters in Japan that one scene shown on television is as good as 10,000 words written in print. Watanabe said that such an assertion comes from the thinking that people can be moved by sensation, and added that such thinking goes against the spirit of healthy journalism.

According to TV Asahi, meanwhile, Sadayoshi Tsubaki, the former chief of the station's news bureau, expressed his intention to resign as executive officer of the company, thus assuming responsibility for the controversy created by his remarks.

Executive To Resign Over Poll Coverage Scandal

OW1810025893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0219 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Asahi National Broadcasting Co. has decided to accept the resignation of its director who is at the center of a controversy over alleged biased coverage of the July 18 general election, company executives said Monday [18 October]. Sadayoshi Tsubaki, who was news bureau chief at the time of the election, created a stir by reportedly saying he had given instructions that coverage of the polls be aimed at securing the defeat of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Asahi National Broadcasting President Kunio Ito will formally accept the resignation of Tsubaki on Tuesday as soon as an in-house committee concludes an investigation into the matter, the executives said. Ito will also

unveil pay cuts for himself and other directors for their "negligence of supervision," they added.

The committee has concluded that Tsubaki did not violate the Broadcasting Law, which stipulates fair and impartial coverage of political and electoral issues, the executives said.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN newspaper last week reported Tsubaki as telling a meeting of the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters in Japan (NBA) on September 21 that he had instructed reporters to cover the election in such a way that a non-LDP government would be born. He was also quoted as saying his station does not necessarily need to be impartial in its reporting and it had reported news in such a way as to support specific candidates in the election.

Tsubaki held a news conference last Wednesday and denied he made the remarks quoted in the SANKEI SHIMBUN. The issue was taken up by LDP members in the Diet and Tsubaki was questioned by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on the matter.

The network removed Tsubaki from the post of the press bureau chief last Thursday. Late last week Tsubaki told the TV Asahi management he intended to resign to "take responsibility" for the turmoil.

The election ended the LDP's 38-year grip on power and ushered in the seven-party coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Firms Report Deterioration in Business Conditions

*OW1810072893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—Many small- and medium-sized Japanese companies consider business conditions have deteriorated, according to a government survey released Monday [18 October]. The quarterly survey by the small and medium enterprise agency said the business sentiment index sank to minus 38.9 for the July-September quarter from a minus 30.3 reported for the previous quarter, remaining in the minus column for the ninth straight quarter.

The index represents the percentage of companies that feel their business conditions have improved or will improve from a year earlier, minus the proportion of those suffering or expecting worse business.

The survey, conducted early in September by the agency affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, covered 18,892 small- and medium-scale companies, of which 17,366 companies or 91.9 percent responded.

The sales index for the July-September period stood at minus 37.9, dropping from the minus 29.1 in the April-June quarter.

The index on pretax profits came to minus 42.2, worsening from the minus 34.1 reported for the previous three-month period.

Smaller businesses still expect bleak business prospects in the months to come, with the index on business sentiment for the October-December quarter standing at minus 33.4, that on sales at minus 32.1, and the index on pretax profits at minus 36.9.

Government Economic Panel Agrees on Deregulation

*OW1810050593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—A private advisory panel to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa agreed to abolish in principle economically restrictive government regulations as part of the restructuring of the Japanese economy, a cabinet official said Monday [18 October]. The 15-member Economic Reform Research Council reached the decision at its third meeting, said Takeshi Fujii, chief of the cabinet councillor's office on internal affairs.

The panel is headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The council, which met on September 16 and October 4 after Hosokawa asked for advice on deregulation, is scheduled to release an interim report in early November on how best to ease government regulations. Specifically, the panel aims to give consumers greater freedom of choice, rectify price differences between at home and abroad and turn Japan into a society more compatible with the international community.

Hosokawa believes decontrol of government regulations is the first step in shifting the country's economic and social structure to one favorable to consumers.

The council, asked to draft a paper similar to the 1986 Maekawa Report by the end of the year, will examine ways to make the economy more oriented toward growth led by domestic demand in the face of growing criticism of Japan for its yawning current account surplus. The Maekawa Report, drawn up by a panel led by a former Bank of Japan governor, the late Haruo Maekawa, called for changing Japan's export-oriented economy to one led by domestic demand.

Most of the report's proposals were not realized, but the trade surplus shrank because of domestic demand boosted during the "bubble economy" boom marked by skyrocketing land and stock prices in the late 1980s.

The council, which meets three or four times a month, will hold its next session Thursday. In the coming four sessions, including one to be held Thursday, the panel will hear the opinions of its members one by one on deregulation, Fujii said.

Business Urges MITI Head To Cut Taxes Soon*OW1810040793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 18 KYODO—A business group Monday [18 October] urged the head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to reduce income taxes as soon as possible, ministry officials said.

Top officials of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), in a meeting with MITI Minister Hiroshi Kumagai, said a reduction in income taxes would help stimulate the sluggish economy. The officials, including Chairman Masaru Hayami, also called for relaxation of government regulations to correct price gaps between domestic and overseas markets.

The group also suggested that a target be set to trim Japan's huge trade surplus but Kumagai seemed cool to the idea, according to the MITI officials.

"Concrete actions should be carried out first" for reducing the trade surplus, he was quoted as saying.

Majority of Nonunion Laborers: Union Unnecessary*OW1710111993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT
17 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 17 KYODO—Many people in companies without trade unions think organized labor is unnecessary, according to a survey released Sunday [17 October]. A research institute on Japanese labor that is affiliated with the Labor Ministry reported that 60 percent of laborers think unions are troublesome and that their wages and working conditions are adequate.

The institute also reported that only 3.1 percent of employees in nonunionized firms had been approached by unions to start a new chapter inside the company.

Since 1976, when 33.7 percent of Japan's labor force was represented by trade unions, the ratio has continued to drop and fell to 24.4 percent, according to a ministry survey last year.

The report suggested that the degree of disappointment among laborers over working conditions was "not that strong," and that the decline also reflected the fact that existing unions had not approached nonunion laborers about organizing.

The researchers interviewed 1,104 laborers in July 1992 in the Tokyo metropolitan area, including 605 employees of firms without unions, 354 union members, and 145 nonunion employees and firms with organized labor.

Among companies without unions, 26.4 percent of employees said the restrictions of unions were troublesome and 24.5 percent said that even without a union they already earn good money and have good working conditions.

Among nonunion employees at firms with unions, 13.8 percent said they wanted to join a union while 34.4 percent did not because of restrictions. The survey found that 23.2 percent of respondents did not believe working conditions would improve if they joined.

A total of 26.9 percent of nonunion members of firms with organized labor said they have been invited to join a union, but 96.9 percent of the employees interviewed in the nonunion firms reported that they had never been approached about creating a union.

Nearly half of the union members, 45.2 percent, replied they are aware that an increasing number of members are leaving unions, the report said.

Hitachi Said To Boost Domestic Chip Purchases*OW1710020793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0141 GMT
17 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 17 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. will boost purchases of dynamic and static random access memory chips from its business partners to respond to a strong demand, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Sunday [17 October].

The electronics giant will buy four-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips from Nippon Steel Corp.'s semiconductor subsidiary at a monthly rate of 500,000 to one million chips starting early next year, the leading business daily said.

Hitachi will also purchase one-megabit static random access memory (SRAM) chips from the Asahi Chemical Industry Co. group at a monthly pace of 500,000 beginning late this year, it said. The company has already been purchasing one million to two million four-megabit drams per month from South Korea's Goldstar Electron Co.

The combined purchases of microchips from those companies will boost Hitachi's monthly marketing capability to over 10 million chips, according to the newspaper.

MITI To Support Multimedia Systems Development*OW1610084493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0801 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 16 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will help promote the development of computer software and multimedia systems, ministry officials said Saturday [16 October].

The ministry will first inaugurate a panel of experts to select development projects for support, the officials said. The group comprising Japanese and foreign researchers, patterned after a similar process in the United States, will evaluate applications for government support, including their technological standards and marketing possibilities, the officials said.

The system is designed to stimulate development of computer software, including designs of semiconductor architecture, which lags far behind the U.S., they said. Projects approved by the panel will be eligible for government subsidies or low-interest loans through governmental financing institutions, the officials said.

The system will mainly cover software for multimedia devices and processing devices for workstations and other next-generation equipment, they said. The officials said the ministry hopes the new system will help promote collaboration between enterprises and research organizations.

North Korea

Radio on Second Contact for Exchange of Envoys

*SK1510131593 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1212 GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Text] The second working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys of the top leaders of the North and South took place in the southern area of Panmunjom today. The contact was held behind closed doors.

After the contact, the head of our side's delegation gave a news conference and briefed reporters on the contact.

Our side first stressed: Not only all fellow countrymen but also the whole world sincerely expect that the special envoys of the top leaders of the North and South will be exchanged in a good atmosphere at all cost to ensure that the pending North-South issues, including the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, are discussed and resolved at an early date in compliance with the national interests and that, in this way, a turning point will be achieved in attaining peace in our country and its peaceful reunification.

After doing so, our side expressed our view on each side's proposal on practical procedures for the exchange of special envoys presented.

Our side said: Our proposal on practical procedures is a very reasonable and fair proposal, which fully reflects basic issues to be raised in exchanging special envoys and completely put into full consideration all the points that the two sides generally agreed on by exchanging letters and telephone messages. Contrary to this, the South side's proposal on practical procedures stresses formalities, is not substantial, and does not clearly specify the mission of the special envoys, a main point in practical procedures on the exchange of special envoys.

Our side pointed out: If the mission of the special envoys is decided on as the South side has proposed, the special envoys would work as mere messengers who convey the desire of the top leaders; and various issues for improving North-South relations, including the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, could be discussed and resolved through the exchange of special envoys.

Our side demanded that practical procedures be discussed based on our side's reasonable proposal.

Our side stressed: Our side has repeatedly urged the South to first reveal its attitude on the two questions of principle. Our side has done so to ensure that special envoys are exchanged at all costs and that the exchange of special envoys proceed without minor twists and turns and bear excellent fruit as wished by people at home and abroad. The exchange of special envoys will serve as an important momentum in improving North-South relations and achieving the country's reunification.

Our side again strongly urged the South side to express, in any form in today's contact, its view on discontinuing nuclear war exercises and not pursuing an international cooperative system if it has the intention of settling the important affairs of the nation, including the denuclearization issue, through an exchange of special envoys in keeping with the demand and aspirations of the times and the people at home and abroad.

The South side, far from exhibiting an understandable stand toward our side's just demand, in an attempt to rationalize its unjust attitude, repeated its unreasonable and unrealistic arguments that cannot be put into practice. The South side gave a poor excuse by saying that the demand of the North side was a matter outside the authority of the working-level contact and that there have not been nor will ever be nuclear war exercises in the South.

Calling the South to task for its obsolete and negative attitude, our side asserted that whether the South manifests its attitude or not will be a touchstone where the South will show whether it is willing to exchange special envoys or not and whether it is willing to make a new start or to follow the steps of past dialogues.

Our side stressed that the working-level contact is to realize an exchange of special envoys.

Our side also said: Various pending issues, which stand in the way of realizing an exchange of special envoys, must be widely discussed. Our side cannot accept the idea that some specific issues can be discussed while others cannot.

Our side said that the South's attitude is not a sincere one to truly realize an exchange of special envoys but it is one to ridicule the nation since it only wishes to discuss the procedural matters for an exchange of special envoys without unfastening the door that stands before the exchange of special envoys.

Because of this, our side repeatedly and strongly urged the South side to answer if it will conduct the Eagle exercise in either late October or early November; how it will resolve the South Korean nuclear issue if an international cooperative system is designed to resolve our nuclear issue; and if it intends to promote the national cooperative system instead of the international cooperative system to realize denuclearization on the Korean

peninsula. The South side, however, avoided the answers to these questions to the end.

Our side repeatedly and strongly asserted: As learned from the lessons of North-South dialogue over the past years, no fruit can be achieved from the dialogue under the situation in which a large-scale nuclear war exercise is being conducted to attack the dialogue partner. Under these circumstances, the dialogue itself cannot be prepared as well. We pointed out these facts with concrete examples. If the South side has really the intention to realize the exchange of special envoys, it must suspend all hostile nuclear war exercises against fellow countrymen and make a bold decision to give up the international cooperation system.

Also, our side strongly called the South to account for the fact that it is talking about the exchange of special envoys in front of us, while pursuing the international cooperation system behind us in order to be away from fellow countrymen, and said that this is, in fact, an anti-national and anti-dialogue act of denying the North-South dialogue and the joint denuclearization declaration.

Our side has put forward a new proposal for a contact between the heads of the delegations of the two sides, in view of the sincere stand for realizing the exchange of special envoys between the North and South at any cost to live up to the expectation of the nation.

Today's course of contact showed again that the South side neither wanted the exchange of special envoys nor the settlement of the country's denuclearization issue.

The two sides agreed to hold the next contact on 25 October.

After the contact, the heads of the two sides met behind closed doors.

'Fabricated' Biochemical Weapons Issue Decried

*SK1610142593 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0838 GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Unattributed talk: "Slandering Commotions Aimed at Attaining Insidious Goal"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities continue to cling to anti-communist slanderous commotions. They recently distributed false materials saying that we have developed biochemical weapons, kicking off malicious anti-communist commotions. The South Korean ruling bunch caused a stir by submitting false materials to the National Assembly that say we possess approximately 1,000 tonnes of poisonous gases and that in developing biochemical weapons we have already even conducted tests on a live body. The claim that we have developed biochemical weapons is totally groundless and is a malicious propaganda created to intentionally harm us.

Our people, in the days of the fatherland liberation war, were victimized by the imperialists' germ warfare brutality. We have neither manufactured biochemical weapons, nor intend to produce the weapons in the future. The rest of the world knows that we did not test and possess the weapons, not to mention bring them from abroad.

Speaking of biochemical warfare, South Korea is the one preparing for it. There are numerous underground nuclear and chemical depots in South Korea. A huge amount of (?E-1) biochemical weapons, known as atrocious weapons of mass murder, are being stored in some depots. Chemical weapons are being produced on a large scale in some 10 poisonous gas manufacturing factories in South Korea. Raving as if the production of chemical weapons is a worldwide trend, the fifth and sixth regimes stepped up "reparations for a chemical warfare in recent years. It is an open secret that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a nuclear war test and a chemical warfare exercise. Needless to say, biochemical preparations in South Korea are being kicked off in a very grave stage.

The truth of the matter is that it is the South Korean authorities themselves who are kicking off preparations for a nuclear war along with germ and biochemical warfare. However, they are finding faults with us like a thief turning on the victim with a club. The reason for this is clear. As it is well known, the South Korean ruling bunch became the shocking brigade in carrying out the imperialist reactionaries' nuclear commotions aimed at stifling [apsal] our Republic. They are running amok in seeking the international chastisement and coercive measures against us. However, such maneuvers will only reveal their dirty looks as traitors who betrayed the fellow countrymen.

This time, the South Korean authorities forged the North's development of biochemical weapons because the nuclear commotions lost strength now. They attempt to attain their insidious purpose by creating second nuclear commotions. There also lies their insidious intention to further kick off preparations for a nuclear war and a biochemical warfare.

This clearly shows that the South Korean authorities neither want North-South dialogue nor peace and reunification of the country. They are only harboring sinister intentions to harm their fellow countrymen.

At a time when all fellow countrymen are craving for the country's reunification and national unity, the South Korean authorities waged the nuclear commotions to forge distrust and confrontation within the nation. They even went as far as to circulate fabricated materials on the development of biochemical weapons. Such national betrayal of the South Korean authorities can never be tolerated.

The South Korean rulers have miscalculated if they attempt to gain something through anti-communist commotions. The previous ruling bunches who devoted

themselves to the anti-communist slander commotions came to the ruin without exception. The civilian regime which clings to slanderous commotions is doomed to destruction.

Radio on South's 'Military Provocation' Near DMZ

*SK1710031593 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] According to a military source, the South Korean puppets on 13 and 14 October committed a military provocation against us by openly gathering large scale troops and equipment on the closest line near the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] in broad daylight.

On 14 October, the South Korean puppets mobilized and deployed some 90 military vehicles loaded with thousands of armed gangsters and guns and canon balls from Mudung-ri, Yonchon County, via Kangso-ri, to the areas adjacent to the DMZ. They also moved five tanks to the same area. Prior to this, on 13 October, some 20 puppet Army transport helicopter formations, which flew into the skies above Munsan-ri and Paengnyon-ri in Paju County, and Mago-ri and Chokko-ri in Yonchon County; were filled with war frenzy while transporting armed gangsters and military equipment.

On 13 and 14 October, puppet Army's large-caliber artillery units mobilized and deployed in Chomwon-ri, Paju County; Chongong-ri and Majon-ri, Yonchon County; and Naedae-ri and Kwanu-ri, Chorwon County of South Korean Kangwon Province fired more than 150 canon balls at the areas adjacent to the DMZ of the MDL.

On 14 October, puppet Army's armed gangsters, who occupied battle positions right in front of our face in Nosang-ri and Kogong-ri, Paju County; and Poam-ri, Yonchon County; provoked us by wildly firing more than 1,200 shots of large-caliber machine guns and automatic rifles.

Radio Terms South's White Paper 'Mean Trick'

*SK1710075193 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0708 GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] According to Seoul radio reports, the South Korean Defense Ministry recently released the 1993-1994 Defense White Paper, in which it absurdly blames us by saying: The North is now testing nuclear detonators, which is a necessary step for producing nuclear weapons, and is increasing its military strength. It is now capable of launching a surprise attack on the South. This is a harshly contemptuous [omjunghan modok] remark to us, who are making earnest and sincere efforts for peace and peaceful reunification of the country, and it is also a deliberate scheme aimed at defaming our republic. The South Korean authorities' talk about the North's

military threat is nothing but a mean trick, which they are using as a pretext for justifying their own military expansion and provocation.

South's Charges of Military Buildup 'Slander'

*SK1710085393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818
GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—The "Defence Ministry" of South Korea recently published a "Defence White Paper for 1993- 1994" in which it groundlessly charged that the North is "testing a nuclear detonating device" and "building up its military strength" for a possible "surprise attack" on the South, a radio report from Seoul said.

This is a grave insult to the North which is making patient and sincere efforts for peace and peaceful reunification of the country and a deliberate plot to slander the DPRK.

This year alone, the DPRK has published the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country and advanced epoch-making proposals including the exchange of special envoys to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and other pending issues between the North and South and is making every sincere effort to realise them. It is quite preposterous to charge the DPRK with building up its Armed Forces for a "surprise attack" on the South.

The South Korean authorities' outcry over "military threat from the North" is a despicable trick to justify their arms buildup and military provocations under that pretext.

It is the South Korean authorities themselves who constantly threaten the North with reckless military provocations, having deployed in the area along the Military Demarcation Line more than 80 percent of the puppet Armed Forces the total numerical strength of which is more than double the North's.

It is shameless of the South Korean warlikers to hurl mud at the North, a peace champion, while stepping up the development of nuclear weapons, extensively reinforcing the Armed Forces and staging adventurous nuclear war exercises.

We cannot but take a serious view of the fact that the South Korean authorities are getting overheated in slandering the North at a time when a working-level contact is underway for the exchange of special envoys.

The South Korean authorities must look straight at the reality and immediately stop the reckless confrontation campaign which will bring them nothing but self-destruction.

ROK Air Force Chief's Remarks on Arms Buildup

*SK1710120393 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son:
"Warmonger's Intolerable Absurd Remarks"]

[Text] According to reports, the South Korean Air Force Chief of Staff made bellicose remarks at the so-called parliamentary inspection of government offices on 14 October. While mentioning someone's missile attack, he said that South Korea is discussing with the United States the peacetime deployment of the Patriot missile system in South Korea. He also said that it is necessary for South Korea to join the theater missile defense system in the future, that South Korea is considering deployment of AWACS planes, and so forth. He stressed on the need to build up the Air Force to at least 100,000 troops and some 700 tactic planes.

In short, he plainly revealed the South's vicious covert aim of increasing armed forces in a large scale using the North as a pretext. His bellicose remarks are an intolerable challenge to peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

As everyone knows, all Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas earnestly desire that the national reconciliation and unity and the country's peace and reunification be achieved through dialogue and negotiations, not through war.

In fact, the only way to achieve peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, where both sides' enormous armed forces are confronted with each other side of the Military Demarcation Line, is to eliminate political and military confrontation and achieve reconciliation and unity.

Arms buildup and acceleration of war preparation by either side of North and South of Korea would aggravate the confrontation, which may cause an armed clash and finally result in irrecoverable aftermath. This is why we have invariably insisted on arms reduction and set an example in practice.

The North and the South have adopted and effectuated the North-South agreement with the terms on nonaggression as its main point. They are now discussing an exchange of envoys to resolve pending issues between the North and the South, including the issue concerning denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and to open a turning phase for peace and peaceful reunification. Under these circumstances, there is not a single reason or pretext for the South Korean authorities to increase and modernize their armed forces.

The South Korean rulers, however, are planning a large-scale increase of ultramodern war equipment, while raising an outcry over us. This hidden purpose was revealed by the puppet defense minister, who recently said it was inevitable to modernize the Army and turn it into a crack unit. The South Korean top authority

himself visited a puppet Air Force unit and praised to the skies the function of F-16 fighter bombers.

These facts show that although they are talking about peace and reunification, the South Korean rulers do not want peace or reunification and only have the hidden aim to accelerate the preparation for a war.

The puppet Air Force Chief of Staff's remarks made on 14 October on preparation for the reunification and measures to counter changing situation for security is nothing but a preposterous sophistry to justify their criminal maneuver of arms buildup. It is well known that the South Korean authorities have been talking about reconciliation and reunification with fellow countrymen under the cloak of the present civilian-led government.

From the fact that they have a craze for preparing for a war, however, one can clearly see that the South Korean rulers are warmongers, who are far more bellicose than military gangsters in the past, and that they are an antinational group that has the only desire to reunify the country by defeating communism by force.

It is no accident that the South Korean people denounce the present South Korean regime, calling it a regime standing on a tank. The maneuver by the warmongers, who are leading the situation to a dangerous one on the brink of war while pursuing the confrontation with fellow countrymen, cannot be tolerated.

The South Korean authorities must be clearly aware that the fascist, sellout, confrontation, and warlike road they took is the road of disgrace and self-destruction trodden by their predecessors. The worthless arms buildup by the civilian-led government's warmongers will be faced with greater denunciation and opposition from the people at home and abroad, who wish peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Confederation Proposal Called 'Most Realistic'

*SK1810054493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443
GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 18 (KCNA)—Foreign media published articles in the month of support to the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

The Burkinabe paper L'OBSERVATEUR in an article titled "Most Realistic Way of Reunifying Korea" said that October every year is the month of support to the proposal for founding the DCRK and that the publication of "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" by President Kim Il-song in April opened a bright prospect of reunification through confederacy.

The Madagascan ANTA NEWS AGENCY said that the proposal for reunification through confederacy put forward by President Kim Il-song proceeded from the reality of the Korean peninsula and, therefore, it shows

the most realistic way acceptable to all who want reunification. Korea's reunification, it emphasized, should be realised in accordance with the proposal of reunification through confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

The Zimbabwean paper GUARDIAN said the proposal for founding the DCRK is the most realistic and just reunification proposal and it enjoys unquestioned support of all the Korean people.

Reunification Proposal Supported in Mozambique

*SK1810054693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456
GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 18 (KCNA)—The first secretary of the Maputo City Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party signed a signature paper supporting the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo on October 11 on behalf of 1.5 million citizens.

The paper said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, put forward the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and set forth "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" in April.

"Considering these reunification programmes most fair and aboveboard ones for Korea's reunification, we express full support and solidarity for them," it stated, and added:

"We demand that the South Korean authorities abandon their policy of dependence on outside forces, immediately accept the proposal for the exchange of special envoys for a debate on reunification and get foreign troops and nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea withdrawn at once."

Opening of Reunification Art Exhibition Urged

*SK1810110393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022
GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, October 16 (KNS-KCNA)—Delegates from the North and South of Korea and overseas, who were present at the Korea reunification art exhibition, published Saturday a joint statement in which they called for joint efforts for a regular opening of the art exhibition by developing national fine arts and positively conducting activities for the creation of works of the theme of reunification.

The joint statement noted that the Korea reunification art exhibition, initiated by the society for its realization, would be open in Tokyo until October 17, 1993, starting on the 12th, and then be open in Osaka from the 18th, with the participation of an artists delegation from the North (the Korean Artists Union), an artists delegation from the South (the South Korean General Federation of

National Artists and the National Art Association) and a Korean artists delegation from overseas.

It said the current art exhibition was the first historical meeting of Korean artists from the North, the South and overseas and it marked an epochal occasion in inciting the ardent desire for national reunification, the most urgent cherished desire of the entire 70 million nation. "The exhibition has made a great contribution to the promotion of national reconciliation and unity," the statement added. "The Korean artists in the North, the South and overseas, as members of the nation," it stressed, "will make joint efforts to achieve the reunification of the country on the basis of the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and realize non-governmental many-sided cooperation and exchange in literature and art, overcoming all obstacles to the genuine development of the Korea reunification art exhibition."

Exhibition Opens in Tokyo

*SK1510131893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013
GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Text] Tokyo, October 13 (KNS-KCNA)—The Korea reunification art exhibition, the first of its kind, opened in Tokyo on October 12.

The opening ceremony was attended by a Korean artists delegation from the North, a delegation of the South Korean General Federation of National Artists from the South, men of culture and art from the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and many Koreans in Japan and Japanese people of broad strata.

In his speech the head of the North side's delegation said that the reunification art exhibition of Korean artists in the North, South and overseas, the first of its kind in 48 years after the division of the country, was a great joy for the artists and for all other fellow countrymen ardently longing for reunification. He expressed the belief that the exhibition would mark a good occasion in affirming the common tasks facing the Korean artists for national reunification and renewing their resolution.

The head of the South side's delegation also spoke at the ceremony.

On show at the exhibition are "Mt. Paektu, the mountain of ancestry" presented by the North side which was hung abreast with "at the foot of Mt. Halla" by the South side. Also displayed there are Korean paintings, oils, sculptures, woodcuts and pictures.

The exhibition will be open in Tokyo till October 17 and in Osaka for six days.

South Opposition Party's Remarks on Ferry Cited

*SK1710100093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834
GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—The opposition Democratic Party of South Korea issued a statement on October 15, denouncing the authorities for avoiding the responsibility for the sinking of a passenger ship, a radio report from Seoul said.

The statement brands the unwillingness of the "government" authorities to directly compensate for the sinking of the passenger ship which entailed a heavy death toll as evident avoidance of responsibility, and emphasized that the blame for incorrect weather forecast and the ships accommodation of passengers in excess of its capacity rests with none other than the authorities.

According to another report, the "Cabinet" of South Korea has not conducted adequately the operation of salvaging dead bodies although it is many days since the accident, ignoring the growing protest among the families of the victims. On October 14, it refused a "government"-level compensation to the victims and decided to make the "voluntarily donated fund" and "condolence money" substitute for compensation. This has caused public anger.

In another development, the representatives of the bereaved families of the dead began a hunger strike for an indefinite period on October 14 at the building of the "office of sea transport and harbour," urging the authorities to take responsible measures for compensation.

They demanded that the dead bodies be transferred to the families as soon as possible and that the "government" authorities directly take measures for compensation and strictly investigate the cause of the sinking of the ship.

Red Cross Urges South To Help Repatriate Men

*SK1610111693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent letters today to the South Korean Council of Family Movement for Realizing Democracy, the Human Rights Committee of the South Korean Council of Christian Churches and the South Korean Headquarters for the Promotion of the Repatriation to the North of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, long-term prisoners who refused to be converted calling upon them to render active cooperation in the repatriation to the northern half of the country of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan who have been detained in South Korea till today since they were taken prisoners during the Korean war.

The letters said old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, being POWs, should have been sent back to the North at the time of exchange of the POWs after the ceasefire.

"They, however, were subjected to all manner of persecution and sufferings beyond human imagination while being kept behind bars for 30 odd years on the unjustifiable charge that they refused a conversion and, after their release, they have been in worst conditions in which they are scarcely keeping themselves alive, old and ill, in a lonely place, without a kinsman to support them," the letters said, and continued:

"To send them back to the North to relieve their misfortunes and sufferings at an early date and to let them live an untroubled life in the evening of their days is only too natural both from the humanitarian point of view and the compatriotic viewpoint and it fully accords with the demand of the international law on the POWs. This cannot be delayed any more."

The letter to the South Korean Council of Family Movement for Realizing Democracy expressed the belief that the members of the council who have dauntlessly struggled on the righteous road of the struggle to realize social justice in place of their fathers, husbands, sons and daughters who put themselves on the altar of democracy and reunification will make active efforts for the repatriation of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan.

The letter to the Human Rights Committee of the South Korean Council of Christian Churches expressed the hope that the committee which had conducted righteous activities in demand of social justice and the release of prisoners of conscience in South Korea in the past would lift up louder voices of justice demanding the repatriation of the two old men and actively cooperate in its realisation this time.

The letter to the South Korean headquarters for the promotion of the repatriation to the North of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, long-term prisoners who refused to be converted expressed thanks for their activities. "We will make all efforts to realize the repatriation of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan at the earliest date possible by pooling efforts with your organisation," the letter said.

KCNA Notes 1,500 Seoul Demonstrations in 1993

*SK1610103193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—Demonstrations staged by South Korean people of various social strata in Seoul in the first nine months of this year for democratic freedom and vital rights numbered more than 1,500, a Seoul-based radio reported.

This means an increase of more than 60 per cent compared with the same period last year.

This was disclosed in materials presented by the Seoul police agency to the "National Assembly" on October 13, said the radio.

Results of South's Property Survey Criticized

SK1710094593 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0824
GMT 17 Oct 93

[“Evidence Indicting Traitorous Group”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—The result of the “survey of property ownership” recently conducted by the “Finance Ministry” of South Korea shows that 74 million pyong (one pyong is six feet square) of land including the site of the “government-general” in South Korea is still registered as belonging to Japanese, although 48 years have passed since the defeat of Japanese imperialism.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as another piece of evidence that the successive “governments” of South Korea have been groups of traitors.

The news analyst says:

The South Korean rulers are trying to gloss over the problem of “comfort women for the army” without any compensation from Japan and are rashly raising a hue and cry over the “nuclear” issue against fellow countrymen in collusion with the Japanese reactionaries who are marching toward nuclear armament. The fact clearly shows their flunkeyist and treacherous nature.

The South Korean rulers can never become patriots, whatever tricks they may employ to put on the veil of nationalism, paying lip service to “national spirit” and “legitimacy” under the “civilian” signboard.

U.S. Talks Said Only Way To Solve Nuclear Issue

SK1610042393 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0411
GMT 16 Oct 93

[“DPRK-USA Talks, Best Way”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The International Atomic Energy Agency cannot solve the DPRK’s “nuclear issue” and the South Korean authorities have no will and capacity to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. The issue can be solved only through DPRK-USA talks, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The analyst says:

This is clear from the origin of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The nuclear problem cropped up when the United States introduced nuclear weapons into South Korea. Since its shipment of nuclear missiles in the latter half of the 1950s, the United States has brought various types of nuclear weapons, including neutron bombs to South Korea in large quantities, constantly posing a nuclear threat to the DPRK.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula can be settled only between the DPRK and the United States because it is the United States that caused this problem and is standing in the way of its solution.

The nuclear issue on the peninsula is also a problem of easing the tensions on the peninsula and preserving peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world by making the United States fulfill its obligation and responsibility. It is the United States that must solve the problem of this nature.

No third party can take the place of the United States. Herein lies another reason why the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula can be solved only through DPRK-USA talks.

Japan Warned Against Supporting Sanctions

SK1610103693 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1019
GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—“If Japan and other hostile forces venture something like international sanctions, we will have no other alternative but to take an appropriate self-defensive measure as we have declared time and again and Japan will not be able to avoid its consequences,” warned the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in a statement today.

The spokesman said:

Now many countries of the world support our efforts for a fair solution of the nuclear problem and the United States, too, desires its political solution.

But, the Japanese authorities, obtrusively enough, are crying for “international sanctions” against the DPRK and the South Korean authorities are behaving nastily, joining them impertinently.

We cannot but be on our guard against this.

What the Japanese authorities have recently said and did clearly shows that the Japanese Government does not have the least intention to honestly liquidate the past and improve relations with the DPRK and, on the contrary, intends to aggravate the situation, taking issue with the “nuclear problem” of the DPRK, and use it as a pretext to gratify its desire to turn the country into a military power and arm it with nuclear weapons.

Such anti-DPRK hostile acts of the Japanese Government not only lay obstacles to the fundamental solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula but also may lead the situation to an unpredictable phase.

For the sake of peace and security in Asia and for Japan’s own sake, the Japanese authorities had better act with discretion, shaking off the anachronistic dream of isolating and stifling the DPRK.

Kim Il-song Congratulates Activists in Japan*SK1610042593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0358
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today sent a congratulatory message to the 18th meeting of activists of branches of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The message noted that in the past the activists of the branches had kept the unswerving faith in the socialist homeland in spite of the complicated situation surrounding the homeland and the unprecedented vicious moves of the reactionaries at home and abroad, and fully enlisted the patriotic zeal of compatriots to fulfil the patriotic tasks facing Chongnyon.

It said he deemed it a great pride of the Korean nation to have in an alien capitalist country precious people who had remained intensely faithful to the socialist homeland and sincerely supported the Chongnyon organization always as standardbearers of compatriots, such as the activists and highly appreciated their merits.

It said the 18th meeting was a significant one being held at a historical time when the validity and invincibility of the cause of Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses had been demonstrated more powerfully with each passing day and the desire to reunify the country under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation had grown stronger among the compatriots in the North, South and overseas.

It stressed that all the activists of the Chongnyon branches must, with confidence in the victory of the revolutionary cause of *chuche*, further intensify the efforts for establishing the *chuche*-based ideological system and leadership system within the branches and educate and win over a larger number of compatriots of various strata and carry out the patriotic tasks facing Chongnyon more creditably, thus actively contributing to strengthening and developing the movement of Koreans in Japan in keeping with the developing reality.

Daily Urges Japan To Solve 'Postwar Compensation'*SK1710095593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829
GMT 17 Oct 93*

["Japan Must Sincerely Approach Postwar Compensation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—The postwar compensation is the most important question Japan must solve as an aggressor state in the past in order to make a new start. Only when Japan solves this question properly can it liquidate its wrong past and appear before the international community without feeling shame, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper in a by-lined article says:

The postwar compensation means, in essence, that Japan should admit the past criminal aggression of Japanese imperialism, make a sincere apology for that and promise the world not to repeat it.

However, Japan is taking a very insincere attitude toward the postwar compensation. This attitude stands out in contrast to what two other war criminal states Germany and Italy have done as regards postwar compensation.

As voices demanding postwar compensation are growing louder among the Asian people, the Japanese Government must deeply feel the seriousness of the crimes committed by Japanese imperialism in the past. And it must show an honest attitude to liquidate the wrong past by sincerely approaching the solution of this problem.

The successive liberal-democratic governments of Japan, however, have acted quite contrary to this.

Japan's insincere attitude is a product of the crafty ruse not to admit but to justify the past crimes of Japanese imperialism and an expression of the arrogant and shameless mode of thinking that it may go toward "morrow of international contribution" without liquidating the crime-woven history.

Many people of the world criticize Japan as "shameless nation not willing to apologize" and "immature child."

Japan must lend an ear to this criticism and opt to sincerely repent of and compensate for the past crimes.

Academic on Japanese Efforts To Destroy Tangun*SK1610002393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1604
GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Processed from repeat transmission due to garbling in original 1000 GMT cast]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 15 (KCNA)—Scholars gave new scientific answers to the question of Tangun and Kojoson (ancient Korea) through its profound analysis and rich contents based on historical materials at the scientific symposium on Tangun and Kojoson which took place here on October 12 and 13.

Academician, Prof. and Dr. Pak Si-hyong, a researcher of the History Department of Kim Il-song University, spoke about the Japanese imperialists' machinations to obliterate Tangun.

He said:

The Japanese imperialist aggressors regarded it as a part and parcel of their colonial policy in Korea to obliterate Tangun and the ancient history of Korea. Their main purpose in this was to stamp out the national pride and honour of the Korean people as a homogeneous nation with Tangun as its father and thereby to realize their colonial domination over Korea without difficulty. They

also pursued the insidious aim of justifying against the background of history their aggression and domination of Korea by inventing and circulating the story about "inferiority" of the Korean nation and the "superiority" of the Yamato nation of Japan.

With this aim in view, they perpetrated a wholesale pillage and incineration of Tangun-related history books across Korea.

Terauchi, the Japanese imperialists' first governor-general of Korea, seized and destroyed by fire hundreds of thousands of volumes of valuable history, geography and cultural books of the Korean nation including Tangun-related history books considered to be an obstacle to their colonial domination.

The "Korean History Compilation and Revision Society", an aggressive body for the forgery of history organized by the Japanese imperialists, edited "Korean history" of 30 odd volumes in more than 10 years, which did not utter a word about the history of Tangun's Korea.

The Japanese imperialists craftily invented and worked hard to circulate a deceptive theory on "myth about Tangun" saying Tangun was a mythical character invented by the posterity, not a man who existed actually.

The inventors of this theory dismissed as incredible history books such as the "Weishu" and "Ancient Records" which said that there had been records about Tangun. They contended that the myth about Tangun was thickly tinged with Buddhist or Taoist colors and, therefore, they were a preposterous assembly of phrases quoted from the Buddhist [word indistinct] or Tao book in a desultory way.

The Japanese imperialists strictly prohibited teaching Korean students about Tangun and kept the Korean people from holding any function in connection with Tangun.

It is because of their heinous moves to obliterate Tangun that the traditional conception of Tangun as a real character and the father of the nation in the history of Korea, a conception which had been conveyed for generations, gradually disappeared and the conception of Tangun as a mythical character, a fictitious being, was set afloat in the public.

Prof. and Dr. Yu Yol, a researcher of the Linguistics Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences and a corresponding member of the Academy, said the Korean nation is a resourceful nation that had its own letters from the period of Kojoson.

"Reference Book on Pyongyang" edited in the late 16th century says that on the Popsu Bridge in Pyongyang there was a time-honored monument on which were letters written by a ruler during the period of Tangun. "Reference Book on Yongbyon" conveys sixteen Sinji letters.

It is obvious that the Sinji letters were the nation's original letters used in Kojoson, because "Samsonggi," "Taebaek Ilsa," "Kyuwon Sahwa" and other old documents say that they were letters used in Tangun's Korea—Kojoson. It is also because Sinji and similar letters are inscribed on the outside bottom of earthenware discovered among the relics of Kojoson.

Another reason is that the shapes of Sinji letters are distinct from the characters of our neighbouring nations, for example, Chinese characters (ideographs), Mongolian and Indian characters and Japanese Kanazawa (syllabic characters).

And the syllables of main words related to writing are all original Korean letters.

In this sense, Sinji letters can be said to have been the original letters of the Korean nation in Kojoson from the period of Tangun's Korea and the ancestral letters of the Korean nation which changed and developed incessantly and gave birth to various letters afterwards.

Prof. and Dr. Choe Tae-chin, a councillor of the National Reunification Institute, made a speech on Tangun and Taejonggyo.

Taejonggyo emerged in 1909 as an expression of the Korean people's consciousness of national independence against Japanese imperialist aggression. The religion regards Tangun as a real person and worships him, because it recognises Tangun as the founder of the first state of Korea in accordance with the traditional conception from olden times.

Another reason is that the religion believes "equal benefit to people" and "reformed world," Tangun's idea of political leadership.

Dr. and Assistant Prof. Cho Tae-il, a room chief of the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, referred to the customs of observance related to the worship of Tangun.

The customs of observance including that of memorial service established by our ancestors for Tangun, the father of the nation, are an example showing the historic exploits and actual existence of Tangun as the founder of the first state of Korea—Kojoson.

The customs of observance for Tangun are characterized by their consolidation after their formation a long time ago along with history and wide dissemination in various forms and by their religious veil reflecting the historic circumstances of the class society and the political and cultural level of the then people.

Prof. and Dr. Son Yong-chong, a room chief of the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, said the Korean nation is a homogeneous nation fathered by Tangun.

Tangun consolidated the foundations of the state of Kojoson.

Such ancient states as Puyo, Kuryo and Chinguk appeared one after another under the influence of advanced Kojoson. Koguryo, the first feudal state founded by King Tongmyong in 277 B.C., was a legitimate state which inherited the historic position and role of Kojoson. Paekje, Silla and Kaya also inherited the economy and culture of Kojoson.

Parhae, founded toward the end of the seventh century, was also a state representing the Korean nation which succeeded Kojoson and Koguryo.

With the founding of Koryo, the first unified state, early in the tenth century, the Korean nation came to live under the rule of one sovereign state for the first time in history.

The Yi Dynasty also succeeded Tangun's Korea as its name was "Choson (Korea)."

With the bones of Tangun unearthed at his tomb, their age established as 5,011 years and Tangun identified as a Korean born in Korea through anthropological studies, it has become clear that the argument that Tangun came from a far-off land is a groundless gossip.

The clarification of the historical fact that Tangun was born in Pyongyang and founded the state of Kojoson in the early 30th century B.C. with Pyongyang as its capital is a great pride of the Korean nation.

Delegation Returns From UN General Assembly

SK1810013093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] A DPRK delegation led by Song Won-ho, vice foreign minister, today returned home by airplane after attending the 48th UN General Assembly. At the airport, the delegation was greeted by Vice Foreign Minister Chang Song-kil.

Party Secretary Meets PRC Magazine Delegation

SK1610114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Ki-nam, today met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of Qiu Shi, the politico-theoretical magazine of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of China, headed by editor-in-chief You Lin.

Present there were editor-in-chief of KULLOJA Kim Yong-hak and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai.

The head of the delegation said the Korean people had made amazing achievements in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and sincerely congratulated them on the achievements.

He stressed that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had harvested bumper crops in agriculture and registered new success in the field of culture, too.

He noted that the materials on Tangun recently discovered in Korea would be regarded greatly significant not only for Korea but also for the world archaeological circles.

Saying that socialism would surely emerge victorious, he declared that the sino-Korean friendship sealed in blood would be everlasting.

Koreans in China Present Kim Il-song With Gifts

SK1610043193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0400 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—China-resident Koreans who participated in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle presented gifts to the great leader President Kim Il-song with best wishes for his long life in good health.

Kim Son and her family presented him with a quilt made of best cotton.

She said "I made up my mind to present the great leader with this gift, thinking of days when he fought in mountains, staying up all night in rains and sleeping under dry leaves on snows."

Out of the best wishes for the great leader's longevity, Yi Chae-tok and her family presented a multi-purpose kettle and a health instrument and So Sun-ok and her family a set of young antlers of deer.

Paraguayan Party Delegation Arrives 15 Oct

SK1510161093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 15 (KCNA)—A delegation of the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay with Chairman Victor Sanchez Bilagra as its head and General Secretary Ricardo Esti Garribia as its member arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Pak Kyong-son, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

WPK Hosts Reception

SK1610043793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] hosted a reception Friday evening for the delegation of the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay on a visit to Korea.

In his address at the reception, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Hwang Chang-yop, said:

"The February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay with a long history of struggle has from its inception waged a vehement struggle to achieve a democratic development of the society against the pro-U.S. fascist dictatorship, surmounting all obstacles and trials, and in this course, it has grown into a powerful political force in the Paraguayan public circles."

He pointed out that the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay was making devoted efforts to form an alliance with political parties at home and attain the independent rights of the working masses and the democratisation of the society while strengthening the party racks ideologically under the motto "For the general liberation of the Paraguayan people".

Chairman of the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay, Victor Sanchez Bilagra, who is heading its delegation, in his address said that the Korean people were demonstrating the might of socialism today as they are guided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

"And they are a proud people guided by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il," he said, adding:

"The reality of Korea is the ideal of mankind. The world people are looking up to the Korean people."

Supporting the reunification of Korea, he said the reunified Korea would be mightier.

Meets With WPK Delegation

*SK1610113693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—Talks between delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay [FRPP] were held here today.

Present on the WPK side were secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK Hwang Chang-hyop, vice-director of a Department of the C.C., the WPK Pak Kyong-son and officials concerned and on the FRPP side were the delegation with Chairman Victor Sanchez Bilagra as its head and General Secretary Ricardo Esti Garribia as its member.

The sides exchanged views on the issue of further developing bilateral relations and some matters of common concern.

The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Talks With KSDP Delegation

*SK1810053593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457
GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 18 (KCNA)—Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party (KSDP), Sunday met and had a

friendly talk with a delegation of the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay with chairman Victor Sanchez Bilagra as its head and General Secretary Ricardo Esti Garribia as its member.

Kim Il-song Receives Delegation

*SK1810105593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017
GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 18 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on October 18 received the delegation of the February Revolutionary Party of Paraguay with Chairman Victor Sanchez Bilagra as its head and General Secretary Ricardo Esti Garribia as its member on a visit to Korea.

Present there were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and Pak Kyong-son, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

President Kim Il-song gave a luncheon for them.

Kim Chong-il Receives Party Leaders' Greetings

*SK1710122893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012
GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

They came from Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and first prime minister of the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India; Toe de Stanislas, general secretary of the Democratic Youth Revolutionary Party of Burkina Faso; Leon Nzokene, general secretary of the Congolese Socialist Party; Amoussouvi Vignik Amedegnato, general secretary of the Togolese People's Rally; Ali Houdou, secretary general of the Party of Revolution of Benin; Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua; and Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, president of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru.

The messages said that the Workers' Party of Korea has won a great victory in all the political, economic and social domains under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, tiding over all obstacles, and expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the WPK and their parties would continue to develop.

They wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

On this occasion, Comrade Kim Chong-il received a congratulatory letter from A. Alimjanov, chairman of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan.

King Il-song Receives Greetings From 'Arafat

*SK1810053493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440
GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 18 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message of greetings from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Messages of greetings also came to the great leader President Kim Il-song on the occasion from Iqbal Ahmed Khan, secretary-general of the Pakistan Muslim League; Nir Mal Sen, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers and Peasants Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Hasanul Haq Inu, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party; Rashed Khan Menon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh; Talal Hafun Ala Mai, general secretary of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan; Chairman Vassos Lyssarides and Secretary General Yiannakis Omirou of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus and Chairman Ingve Iversen and International Secretary Dag Norum of the Central Committee of the Norwegian Communist Party.

They say that the Workers' Party of Korea under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song has changed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into an independent country by adopting the *chuche* idea as the guideline of its policy and thoroughly applying it in all fields.

They wished President Kim Il-song a long life in good health.

PAF Minister Greet Egyptian Defense Minister

*SK1710092693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0802
GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—Marshal O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces [PAF], sent a message of greetings to Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of Defence of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

O Chin-u congratulates the Egyptian defence minister on his receipt of the military title of marshal and wishes him greater success in his responsible work.

Nepal Communist Party Delegation Visits

Kim Il-song Meets Group

*SK1610110593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting delegation of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism) headed by general secretary of its Central Committee Madhav Kumar Nepal.

On hand were Secretary Hwang Chang-yop and vice-director of a Department Kim Yang-kon of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

He hosted a luncheon for the guests.

Kim Il-song Receives Gift

*SK1610112793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism).

The gift was handed to secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Chung-nin by Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the C.C., the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism), on a visit to Korea.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift

*SK1610112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism).

The gift was handed to secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Chung-nin by Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the C.C., the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism), on a visit to Korea.

Ambassadors Meet Indian, Malagasy Premiers

*SK1710003493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2142
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, when he met the DPRK ambassador to India who paid a farewell call on him on October 8, expressed satisfaction over the fact that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Governments and peoples of India and Korea were daily developing on good terms and hoped that Korea would be

reunified independently and peacefully at an early date and the Korean people would achieve progress and prosperity.

Madagascan Prime Minister Francisque Ravony [title as received], when he met the DPRK ambassador to his country who paid a courtesy call on him on October 8, highly estimated the remarkable achievements made by the Korean people in the efforts for the prosperity and development of the country.

"I hope that the traditional relations of friendship between Madagascar and Korea will be strengthened and developed on a higher level," he added.

He said he would always support the Korean people's just cause of national reunification.

Vice President Meets Eritrean Finance Minister

*SK1610043293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0402
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—Vice-President Pak Song-chol on October 15 met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall with Haile Welde Tensae, minister of finance and development of Eritrea, and his party.

Present was Chong Song-nam, vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission.

The Eritrean guest noted that Korea had made many successes in the efforts to attain national progress in accordance with the idea centred on the popular masses and in the spirit of self-reliance. "Through the realities, I have seen the bright future of Korea," he added.

He said the reunification cause of Korea was supported by the international community.

Eritrea Delegation Departs 16 Oct

*SK1810013993 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Welde Tensae, Minister of Finance and Development of Eritrea, and his party returned home by airplane on 16 October. At the airport, the party was seen off by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the External Economy Commission.

Members of Guinean Institute Receive Degrees

*SK1710091793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0801
GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 17 (KCNA)—A ceremony of conferring doctorate of the DPRK on officials of the Kim Il-song Institute of Agricultural Science in Guinea was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on October 16.

Present there were Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, Vice-president of the Academy of Agricultural Science Choe Hui-chun and other officials concerned, and members of the visiting delegation of the Kim Il-song Institute of

Agricultural Science in Guinea headed by its Director Alpha Toure and Guinean guests.

After a decision of the State Commission for conferring degrees and titles of the DPRK was read out, Vice-president Yi Chong-ok conferred the diploma of the doctor of economics and a medal on Director Alpha Toure and diplomas of the doctor of agriculture and medals upon Mamadou Sidibe and Sekouna Camara, section chiefs of the institute.

Pan-African Union Council Secretary Arrives

*SK1610002693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1615
GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Processed from repeat transmission due to garbling in 1000 GMT cast]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 15 (KCNA)—Tamba Tamba Victor, secretary of the National Council of the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy of Congo, arrived here today.

The guest was met at the airport by Chi Chae-yong, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Yi In-mo Meets Various People in Pyongyang

*SK1610044993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415
GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, October 16 (KCNA)—The incarnation of faith and will, Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, who is spending happy days in the bosom of the socialist homeland had a meeting Friday with various strata of Pyongyangites.

Present at the meeting were Yi In-mo and his family, officials and working people of offices, factories and enterprises of various domains, members of neighbourhood units and People's Army soldiers.

Yi In-mo responded to the request to tell about his struggle in which he had won, not abandoning his faith and will in even tortures and persecution by the enemy.

"A few letters on the paper of conversion were enough for me to live outside prison. But, the persistent thought of the great leader and our party deep in my heart made me tear the paper to pieces each time," he said, and stated:

"Deeply conscious that there are the motherland, the future and happiness only when there are the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, I will devote my all to the party and the leader."

With the firm determination to defend to the end the party in whose bosom the Korean people live, the participants sang the song "no motherland without you".

South Korea

Government To Reply to Clinton 'This Month'

SK1610012493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0115 GMT
16 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 16 (YONHAP)—The government is to send its reply this month to U.S. President Bill Clinton's request for comprehensive reinforcement of South Korean Peacekeeping Forces in Somalia, a senior government official said Friday.

"We are thinking of sending the reply as early as at the end of this month or before President Kim Yong-sam visits the United States in mid-November at the latest," the official said, noting it to be established practice between countries to reply to personal messages from heads of state as soon as possible. He said the government has not yet decided whether to accept Clinton's request for a dispatch of combatants.

"The government is carefully reviewing the issue now," he said.

Asked if the reply would clearly define the government's position regarding the dispatching of combatants, the official refused to go into detail.

"I don't think there is no other way of saying in the reply but saying we will do that by all means or we will not," he said.

U.S. Strategy Change in Somalia, Haiti Criticized

SK1710100393 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in
Korean 17 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by New York-based correspondent Pak Su-man: "The U.S. Fickleness That Brought Disgrace to the United Nations" from the column "Reporter's Memo"]

[Text] The United Nations has lost face twice, once in Somalia and once in Haiti, because of the U.S.' unprincipled change of strategy.

In Somalia, the United States abruptly proposed a compromise to warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid, disheartening the UN peacekeeping forces that had been conducting the operations to capture Aidid with an offer of \$25,000 prize money. In Haiti, the U.S. plan to bring democracy to Haiti failed and the Haitian military government rejected the landing of UN peacekeeping troops. This forced the United Nations to pass a resolution on economic sanctions on Haiti that it had lifted three months earlier. The policy of "attaching importance to the United Nations" which U.S. President Bill Clinton has repeatedly emphasized since his inauguration is gone.

The UN peacekeepers in Somalia are reported to even be feeling betrayed by the United States these days. The United States had supported the UN Security Council resolution to capture Aidid. Until several days ago, the

U.S. troops in Somalia together with the troops from other countries were engaged in the operation to capture Aidid. When the U.S. public opinion favored the early withdrawal of U.S. troops from Somalia in the wake of the murder of 12 U.S. soldiers on 3 October, the U.S. Government dispatched a special envoy to see Aidid and proposed reconciliation. As a result, Aidid, who was in hiding; turned up in Mogadishu on 14 October for a news conference; and Michael Durant, the U.S. Air Force pilot held hostage; was released.

The UN resolution on capturing Aidid was based on the judgment that the restoration of peace in Somalia was impossible without eliminating him, a warlord of Somalia. However, the resolution lost its cause as the U.S. objective was changed from the restoration of peace in Somalia to the honorable withdrawal of its troops.

The situation in Haiti was due to clear misjudgment by the United States, but the United Nations had to bear the responsibility for the failure. Last July, the United States called the Haitian military leaders to Governors Island in New York and was given their promise to implement democracy in Haiti by reinstating to power the president elected by the people whom they had expelled. Based on this, the United Nations lifted economic sanctions on Haiti. When the sanctions were lifted, the Haitian military government broke the promise. This resulted in the failure to land Haiti by the peacekeeping forces consisting of the U.S. and Canadian troops, and the United Nations had to pass the same resolution twice, thus bringing disgrace to the UN authority.

The United States will have to face the criticism, after all, that it uses the authority and function of the United Nations only when it thinks them necessary to realize its own interest and strategy.

Editorial: Clinton Should Revoke Troop Request

SK1710105493 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
16 Oct 93 p3

[Editorial: "Inform the United States That It Is Impossible for the ROK To Send Troops to Somalia"]

[Text] It is unreasonable for U.S. President Clinton to ask our country to send to Somalia a special airborne unit, which can carry out midair special operations. How on earth dare he ask our country to send to Somalia combat troops that would carry out the most dangerous operations? What on earth does he think of the ROK Government, the ROK people, and the ROK Army? Frankly speaking, it is very rude to make such a request. We have already asserted that it is absolutely impossible to send combat troops to Somalia and have revealed the reasons.

We well know that, in view of the specific relations between the ROK and the United States, the government has considerable difficulty in resolving this issue. It is regrettable that, though a week has passed since our

government received Clinton's letter, it has not made a clear decision. We urge our government to quickly send to the United States a reply letter saying that it is absolutely impossible to send combat troops to Somalia and that the ROK Evergreen Unit should be withdrawn according to the original promise—if the Somali situation becomes worse, it should be withdrawn from Somalia. In a 14 October news conference, President Clinton admitted that "it was wrong for the United States to assume the offensive military task in Somalia." He also added that "it is wrong to undermine political negotiations to settle a dispute by participating in combat mainly against an individual" and that "he will be prudent in sending U.S. troops overseas." That is, he comes to realize the reality that over 60 percent of the U.S. citizens are against the dispatch of U.S. troops to Somalia. Can President Clinton expect the ROK to send its troops to Somalia, even after revealing such a fact? If the United States does not want to assume the offensive military task, it only has to withdraw from Somalia its infiltration units such as the airborne troops. We believe that if President Clinton admits the mistake of assuming the offensive military tasks, it is natural that he should revoke his request for the dispatch of the ROK special units to Somalia.

At any rate, we do not know if, after President Clinton admitted his mistake, the U.S. request for the dispatch of the ROK combat troops to Somalia holds good. It is fitting that the government, Ministry of National Defense, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs nearly share the opinion that it is impossible to send troops to Somalia. However, it is very regrettable that Chongwadae [presidential office] and some ruling party lawmakers are saying that, considering the ROK-U.S. summit talks slated for next month and the U.S. cooperation for resolving North Korea's nuclear issue, it is difficult to refuse the U.S. demand for dispatch of the ROK troops to Somalia. Their thinking is a very short-sighted and narrow one. Is the United States our only friendly country? We would like to ask them whether they have ever thought how the country—the country that conducts the activity for the profits of a specific country even by shedding blood—will be treated in the international arena in the days of the economic war. The Somali situation cannot be compared with the Vietnamese situation. Our country enjoyed a special economic boom by earning dollars and receiving construction orders in return for shedding blood there. However, what profits can our country gain by getting involved in the Somali situation? There is nothing we can gain. Worse yet, we should be concerned that our country's involvement in the Somali situation would incite African racism. This will eventually make it difficult for our country to launch into Africa politically and economically. Our country should know why France and Belgium are trying to withdraw their troops from Somalia by the end of the year. Even the United States has promised the people to completely withdraw its troops from Somalia by next March. We cannot understand at all why, with what

justification and grounds, Chongwadae and some ruling party lawmakers support the dispatch of troops to Somalia.

Because of the acute interest between the parties in Somalia and because of the U.S. offensive military operations, it does not seem that the Somali situation will be settled easily. If the ROK sends its combat troops to Somalia, it cannot be guaranteed the time when it can withdraw its troops. It is said that the government will hold a security-related ministers' meeting in a few days and decide the issue concerning the dispatch of troops to Somalia. As we noted above, our country should not delay, but immediately decide that it is impossible to send troops to Somalia and should inform the United States of the decision.

Daily Opposes Troop Dispatch to Somalia

*SK1610063593 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
15 Oct 93 p 3*

[Editorial: "The ROK Must Not Send Additional Troops to Somalia"]

[Text] It has been learned that it was combat troops that U.S. President Clinton requested the ROK Government to send when he wrote his personal letter to President Kim on the dispatch of additional troops to Somalia. Although the government did not officially disclose this, the government's reference to the letter and its attitude in dealing with this issue lead us to believe that this was the case. When the issue of additional dispatch of troops was first raised, we pointed out several negative problems involving the dispatch of additional troops to Somalia, whether it is combat or other troops. Hence, we are all the more opposed to sending combat troops to Somalia.

Today the situation in Somalia is developing very differently from the condition in which we first decided to send troops to Somalia and from what we had expected before. First of all, instead of gradual enhancement of the prospect for the restoration of order and the settlement of peace in Somalia, the intervention of UN forces has been adding to the confusion in Somalia.

Furthermore, disharmony between the countries which have dispatched troops and the UN authorities is resulting in mounting complaints among them. Because of an incorrect policy of the UN authorities resulting in a pivot in the peace-keeping operations—and particularly in the policy of the UN forces command, the UN forces in Somalia have been dragged into a civil war, drifting away from the original purpose of the UN forces, that is, humanitarian activities. Far from being an object of gratitude of the Somali people, the UN forces are regarded as bad outside forces in Somalia.

Because of this, the U.S. forces, which were much welcomed by the Somali people at one time, have become targets of their attack. This is increasing worries about rising casualties among the UN forces. The U.S.

Congress and press, therefore, are increasing pressure on the U.S. Government to withdraw its forces. Hence, the U.S. Government had to promise the American people that it will withdraw U.S. troops from Somalia by the end of March 1994. Some circles of the U.S. Congress are not satisfied with this and call for expediting the withdrawal schedule to complete the withdrawal by the end of 1993.

Other countries that have dispatched troops to Somalia are also preparing for their troop withdrawal. France has almost decided to withdraw 1,100 of its troops from Somalia by 15 January 1994. Belgium is reported to be planning to withdraw its 1,000 troops by the end of this year. Italy and Germany are also reported to have a similar withdrawal plan. Even Sweden, which is operating a field hospital, is planning to withdraw before Christmas.

The countries considering withdrawing their troops are mostly the countries, in contrast with our country, which have an experience of operating colonies in Africa and near Somalia. Therefore, these countries are well aware of the situation and the strategic value of this region, having far more interest than we do in this region. We ought to note the fact that despite this, these countries are trying to withdraw from Somalia.

Somalia is more unlike our country than these countries in terms of political, economic, and historical relations. Somalia is not a country of crucial importance from the strategic and security point of view. Moreover, our country is subject to the most strained tensions in the world militarily even after the retreat of the cold war. Taking these factors into account, we may have to consider withdrawal of our troops from Somalia even before other countries do. As the situation now differs from that which prevailed when our troops were dispatched, the government should make a prudent judgment.

Assembly Views Ackerman Visit, Troop Request

SK1810083193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—Fourteen standing committees of the National Assembly continued to hold parliamentary inspections of the administration Monday, grilling officials of their respective ministries on policies ranging from the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.S. request for dispatch of South Korean combat troops to Somalia.

At the Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee, Chairman Rep. Chong Chae-mun announced that the committee will hold a public hearing on what to do with South Korean loans to the Soviet Union that were taken over by Russia, whose payment of interest and principal are being delayed because of economic difficulties.

The announcement came after Rep. Yi Pu-yong of the Democratic Party asked the chairman to make a decision on the issue.

Chong said, however, floor leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition Democratic Party will work out details of the public hearing, including timing, the selection of witnesses and inspection of diplomatic papers concerning the establishment of relations between the Soviet Union and South Korea.

Two opposition members of the committee also pointed out that the papers the Foreign Ministry submitted to the National Assembly with regard to the kidnapping of then opposition leader Kim Tae-chung in Tokyo 20 years ago are inadequate.

They demanded that the committee inspect all the pertinent papers on the kidnapping exchanged between the Tokyo and Seoul governments and between the Korean Embassy in Tokyo and the Foreign Ministry in Seoul.

In addition, the committee pursued the administration on what it will do with the U.S. request for Korean combat troops to be dispatched to Somalia.

The committee also asked the government's position on North Korea in the wake of the visit to Pyongyang by U.S. Congressman Gary Ackerman, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asia-Pacific Affairs.

Specifically, committee members wanted to know whether the Seoul government knew the content of a message that might have been sent by North Korean President Kim Il-song to the U.S. Government through Ackerman.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu replied that Kim Il-song met with Ackerman and repeated North Korea's position on the need for improvement in relations between Pyongyang and Washington and that North Korea has no intention of developing nuclear weapons.

There was no problem in the joint front of the United States and South Korea against the North and South Korea-U.S. policies are being carried out following close consultation at every stage, Han added.

With regard to the U.S. request to Seoul to send combat troops to Somalia, the lawmakers generally came out opposing dispatch. Rep. Yi U-chong, Democratic Party, went as far as to ask the government whether South Korea should think about bringing home the Army engineering corps currently working in Somalia.

The committee also asked the foreign minister about reported Russian dumping of nuclear waste in the East Sea.

Government, U.S. Agree To Hold Financial Talks

*SK1610024693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are scheduled to hold bilateral Financial Policy Talks (FPT) in early December and discuss reflection of Seoul's blueprint for phase-three financial liberalization and market opening in the Uruguay Round offer list to guarantee full implementation.

Seoul and Washington have agreed to hold the talks after the second-stage liberalization of interest rates takes effect, but the date and place will be decided later, Second Assistant Financial Minister Im Chang-yol, Korea's chief negotiator to the talks, said Saturday.

The two countries have met one or twice a year to talk over pending financial issues since 1990, and Washington has long been pressuring Seoul to present a blueprint on comprehensive financial liberalization.

Korea will be better equipped for December's talks, having announced financial liberalization and market opening plans that abolish almost all foreign exchange and capital trade restrictions by 1997 in June and having expanded the daily fluctuation band for the inter-bank foreign exchange rate and eased requirements on underlying documentation on foreign exchange deals Oct. 1.

Because Korea will have started the second-stage deregulation of interest rates before the talks, it is likely to study the agenda and discuss execution with the United States, Im said.

But the partners face a long and tiring verbal tug-of-war as Washington wants Seoul to put the liberalization plan in its offer list for the Uruguay Round negotiations to assure implementation and Korea opposes, he said.

The U.S. side is expected to urge an end to the liable lending rate on small- and medium-sized companies and the ceiling on the issuance of certificates of deposit, and continuity of swap transactions, temporary purchases with guaranteed resale, on behalf of American banks in Korea.

In previous meetings, the Americans talked and the Koreans listened. Seoul will demand improvements in business conditions for Korean banks in the United States in the December round, Im said.

U.S. Said Having Trouble Formulating DPRK Policy

*SK1810033093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0308 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Washington, Oct. 17 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Government appears to be having trouble making a policy decision on Pyongyang because of difficulty evaluating North Korea's nuclear development program, though it recently warned that the issue could be referred to the U.N. Security Council.

Deputy Defense Secretary William Perry recently complained publicly that the Pentagon lacked a consistent North Korea policy and informed sources say the complaints had something to do with the difficulty the U.S. Government has in evaluating North Korea's nuclear program.

Congress's General Accounting Office (GAO) has admitted that it made errors in its estimate of North Korea's nuclear capability in a report published last month, saying it will correct them in a new edition of the report to be issued soon. A GAO official says errors were made in determining North Korea's nuclear arms production capability on the basis of the combined capacity of the nuclear reactors that are either in operation or under construction in the Yongbyon area north of Pyongyang.

Other sources say there still is a discrepancy between the State and Defense Department views of the North Korean nuclear program and the two departments are having difficulty evaluating it at a working level.

Information from spy satellites is limited, and the problem is how to complement this information. China had provided not a few human sources of information on North Korea's nuclear situation until its relations with the United States cooled recently.

Washington-Beijing relations could become a significant factor if the U.N. Security Council takes up the North Korean nuclear issue. Nobody can be sure that China, as a permanent member of the council, will not exercise its veto.

In view of China's position so far, there is a low possibility that China will support North Korea in the world forum, according to these sources. The U.S. Government must consider various possibilities to be prepared for unexpected developments. A U.S. diplomat well versed in Korean affairs says that U.N. economic sanctions would have little effect on North Korea because it is already internationally isolated.

It is hard to say how correct Washington's picture of North Korea's nuclear development program is, but indications are that it has problems.

IAEA Secretary General Arrives 17 Oct

*SK1710141193 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in
Korean 1223 GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), arrived in our country this afternoon. During a news conference held in India before leaving for the ROK today, Secretary General Hans Blix said that North Korea is on the threshold of producing nuclear weapons. Great attention is focused on his remarks. Reporter Kim Chin-su will report:

[Begin Kim Chin-su recording] IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix is visiting the ROK at a time when North Korea's nuclear issue has become a pressing one along

with the apprehension that the nuclear safeguard measures may be discontinued. Thus, attention at home and abroad has focused on his visit. As if he was aware of the attention focused on him, Secretary General Blix refrained from referring to North Korea's nuclear issue at the airport and just stressed the meaning of the symposium he will attend on the next generation nuclear reactor.

Secretary General Blix will attend the symposium tomorrow and will pay a courtesy visit to President Kim Yong-sam. It is expected that he will exchange important views with President Kim Yong-sam about North Korea's nuclear issue, including the process of the IAEA's negotiations with North Korea.

Secretary General Blix will submit the IAEA's report on the situation of North Korea's nuclear development to the United Nations next month. Before he left for the ROK, Secretary General Blix held a news conference in India regarding the situation of North Korea's nuclear development and said that it has been confirmed that plutonium is contained in [word indistinct] brought from North Korea. He said that North Korea is on the threshold of producing nuclear weapons. Thus, great attention is focused on his remarks.

In addition to Secretary General Blix, Mr. Brown, director of the Korean Affairs Department of the U.S. Department of State, arrived in Seoul. Thus, it seems that the ROK and the United States will exchange important opinions about the nuclear issue. North Korea's nuclear issue has become more pressing.

North Korea now refuses to replace supplies, including batteries and film, for the nuclear inspection equipment. Thus, the nuclear safeguard measure against North Korea will be discontinued in two weeks. [end recording]

Blix To Reveal IAEA Report

SK1810003293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0017 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) forwarded a report on IAEA inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities to the United Nations during a Board of Governors meeting Sept. 23 and recently made an additional report, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix said upon arrival at Kimpo International Airport on Sunday afternoon.

He would hold a news conference Tuesday [19 October] to reveal the content of an IAEA report on North Korea's nuclear issue to be submitted to the United Nations in early November, said Blix, visiting Seoul at Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung's invitation to attend an international seminar on next-generation nuclear reactors co-sponsored by the IAEA and Korea Electric Power Corp.

The seminar will help South Korea because its reactor technology has developed and because it plans to build many reactors in the future, he said.

The IAEA director-general will meet with President Kim Yong-sam, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Senior Presidential Secretary for Foreign Affairs and National Security Chong Chong-uk to discuss North Korea's move to break the continuity of IAEA safeguards of its nuclear sites.

He will leave for Japan on Tuesday afternoon after the press conference.

Speaks at International Symposium

SK1810044493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0434 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], urged the nuclear industry to push ahead with a globally practiced safety culture that puts the risk of accidents causing radioactive release at nearly zero in a speech Monday.

"No generation of energy is without some risk," Blix told the international symposium on advanced nuclear power systems, which opened Monday in Seoul with 300 scientists and government officials attending for a five-day run.

"It seems, however, that the public is less tolerant of nuclear accidents than of other accidents," he said. "The nuclear industry must accept this and respond with a globally practiced nuclear safety culture and put the risk of accidents causing radioactive release to the environment near zero."

While nuclear safety was a national task, international expert advisory services are increasingly available through the IAEA and WANO, the organization of nuclear operators. These services, too, help to bring all operators into the international safety culture, he said.

"The symposium is, indeed, a forum in which we exchange our experiences and discuss our future needs," Blix said. "There is no reason to believe that the advanced nuclear power system will comprise only evolutionary models which draw on some 6,500 reactor years of accumulated experience, which are already here or at least around the corner and which will show improvements from design to safety and economics."

"We shall also see the emergence in a not-too-distant future of some other types of advanced reactors, such as breeder reactors for optimal resource management when economic uranium resources may be less abundant than today."

Also addressing the symposium, South Korean Science and Technology minister Kim Si-chung expressed regret that North Korea's nuclear safety issue is still a cause of international concern.

"Based on the established nuclear transparency, the Korean Government proclaimed the 'Declaration on Non-Nuclear Korean Peninsula Peace Initiative' in

1991, which made quite clear to the world our determination to contribute to peace in the Korean peninsula as well as in the world," Kim said.

"It is regrettable, however, to observe that despite all these efforts of the Korean Government, North Korea's safeguards issues are still raising international concern."

Meets President 18 Oct

*SK1810102393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1001 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam met Hans Blix, visiting director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), at Chongwadae [presidential offices] on Monday afternoon to exchange opinions on ways to resolve the North Korean nuclear issues.

Chong Chong-uk, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and national security, who was present at the meeting, said both President Kim and Director-general Blix felt their talks were highly instructive. But, Chong refused to discuss the contents of the talks, saying it was decided not to reveal them publicly.

IAEA Director-general Blix was quoted as saying that "this is a critical period so far as North Korea's nuclear issues are concerned."

Asked if the "critical period" Blix mentioned can be taken to mean that some measures are imminent against North Korea, Chong said, "I cannot say so."

"Today's talks were highly sincere and substantial. President Kim said he talked with many people over the nuclear question, but the talks he had with Director-general Blix were most instructive," Chong said.

Blix Rules Out Limited Inspections

*SK1810110693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1055 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will not tolerate it if North Korea, while rejecting ad hoc and regular inspections, allows only limited IAEA inspections of a technical level, Hans Blix, visiting IAEA director-general, said here on Monday.

During his call on Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, Blix said his organization has asked North Korea time and again to accept ad hoc and regular IAEA inspections including the exchange of the batteries and films of surveillance cameras.

Kum Chong-ho, Foreign Ministry's director-general for international organizations, quoted Blix as saying, "IAEA will no longer accept limited inspections of only those facilities one-sidedly hand-picked by North Korea as they did in early last August."

During meeting, Han and Blix agreed to elevate cooperation between South Korea and the IAEA in the peaceful use of atomic energy, a source said.

DPRK 'May Allow' IAEA To Service Equipment

*SK1810024993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea told U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman during his visit last week that nuclear inspections and negotiations are different things, hinting that it may allow the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to service its monitoring equipment in North Korea as scheduled this month, South Korean officials said Monday.

Such hint was given by North Korean officials when Ackerman, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, told them that negotiations with the IAEA on nuclear inspection were important for a third round of talks with the United States, the officials said.

"The IAEA is not negotiating fairly," they quoted the North Korean officials as replying to Ackerman. "But negotiation and inspection are different things."

Ackerman visited Pyongyang from Oct. 9 to Oct. 12 and then entered South Korea by crossing the truce village of Panmunjon.

What the North Korean officials meant was that Pyongyang will allow the IAEA to carry out a technical check of its monitoring equipment in North Korea in order to maintain the continuity of nuclear safeguards despite its doubt about the "impartiality" of the Agency, the officials said.

Given this interpretation, Pyongyang's attitude, however, is still far from meeting the IAEA's call for inspection of unreported facilities in Yongbyon, not just a technical check.

Pyongyang also told Ackerman that its nuclear problem should be solved at the same time as improving relations between Pyongyang and Washington so the two sides should "make a comprehensive agreement on the two matters and then seek solutions by stages," the officials said.

IAEA To File UN Special Report on North Korea

*SK1610072493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 16 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic energy agency (IAEA) is expected to submit a special report on North Korea's nuclear issues to the United Nations early next month, prompting the world organization to take up the North Korean question formally at its general assembly. A Foreign Ministry official said on Saturday that Hans Blix, IAEA director-general, would file the report describing Pyongyang's

failure to carry out its nuclear safeguard treaty obligations to the U.N. Secretariat on Nov. 1. The report will be in addition to the the IAEA's annual report to the United Nations, which would contain its 1992 activities.

The official said the special report would oblige the U.N. General Assembly to review the North Korean issue and adopt, if necessary, a resolution against North Korea.

Meanwhile, IAEA director-general Hans Blix is to fly into Seoul on Sunday for a three-day stay at the invitation of Science and Technology minister Kim Si-chung. His visit is to attend the opening ceremony of the international symposium on the development of next-generation atomic reactors sponsored by the IAEA and supported by the Korea Electric Power Corp.

Blix will also pay a courtesy call on President Kim Yong-sam and confer with government leaders on the North Korean nuclear issues. The IAEA head is set to meet the press on Tuesday morning and leave for Japan in the afternoon.

Seoul Reconfirms Policy on Nuclear Issue

*SK1610055893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0551 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea reconfirmed its policy of solving North Korea's nuclear issue through dialogue as far as possible while maintaining its policy of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula at a meeting of unification-related ministers Saturday.

The meeting, headed by Unification Minister Han Wan-sang, confirmed that if Pyongyang guarantees the transparency of its nuclear program, Seoul will help it improve its relations with Washington and Tokyo and flexibly review whether the joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit" should be suspended.

If North Korea does not allow the International Atomic Agency (IAEA) to change its inspection devices at nuclear sites in Yongbyon by the end of October, Pyongyang will have to face U.N. sanctions because it would be tantamount to rejecting the IAEA's safeguards system, the ministers agreed.

Also discussed at the meeting were the working-level talks with North Korea on an exchange of special envoys, diplomatic talks with Washington on how to solve North Korea's nuclear problem and the recent IAEA General Assembly attended by the science and technology minister.

DPRK To Take Defensive Steps Against Sanctions

*SK1710060193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0552 GMT
17 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea said on Saturday it could but take appropriate self-defensive

action if Japan and other hostile nations impose international sanctions over its nuclear problem.

Many countries, including the United States hope for peaceful and fair solution to the North Korean nuclear issue, but Japan, joined by South Korea, suggests international sanctions, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said, quoted by the country's official KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY monitored by NAEWOE press in Seoul.

Japan openly voiced extreme concern over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development and called the Stalinist state to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities earlier in the week when Russia President Boris Yeltsin visited Tokyo.

"Japan has no intention to sincerely acknowledge its past and improve relations with us, but wants to pursue its own nuclear weapons program by raising our nuclear issue," the spokesman charged.

He warned that such hostile attitudes of Japan could harm settlement of the nuclear problem and lead to unexpected crisis.

North-South Contacts 'Positively' Appraised

*SK1610022093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0100 GMT 16 Oct 93*

[Text] The government held a meeting of unification-related ministers chaired by Han Wan-sang, deputy premier and minister of the National Unification Board this morning. At the meeting the government made a detailed analysis of the results of the two rounds of talks by the working-level delegates for the inter-Korean exchange of special envoys. Based on this analysis, the government is exploring ways to cope effectively with the upcoming contact by the working-level delegates.

The government positively appraised the results of the two rounds of talks by working-level delegates because, despite the lack of obvious progress owing to the North Korean side's insistence on the two preconditions, our side could discern the North Korean will for the exchange of special envoys and because the two sides were able to narrow their differences considerably on procedural matters.

The government is also reported to be discussing at the meeting ways to create an atmosphere whereby the North Korean side can withdraw its preconditions for the suspension of the so-called nuclear war exercise, and so forth.

As has been reported, North Korea rejected negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. According to a report, the United States and the IAEA delivered an ultimatum to North Korea that the nuclear issue will be referred to the United Nations unless the latter accepts nuclear inspection within two weeks. The government, therefore, anticipates some specific moves

by North Korea in connection with this within two weeks, and is reported to be preparing a measure for it in the meeting.

Unification Minister Urges Action on DPRK

*SK1810025493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean National Unification Minister Han Wan-sang said Monday that the international community should make a practical proposal to Pyongyang that can induce a positive change in the North Korean leadership on the nuclear issue. Han, who is also a deputy prime minister, made the remark in a keynote speech to a seminar given by the Korea Research Institute for National Unification, a government-affiliated organization.

"The nations surrounding the Korean peninsula should not carry out a policy aimed at isolating North Korea," Han said.

Outside pressure on North Korea would further solidify the current North Korean political system, Han said.

If the pressure goes beyond a certain level, it could amplify the irrational character of the system, and that could in turn trigger a misfortune of enormous proportions to Korea, Han said, affirming once again that he favors negotiations over sanctions.

It is the reality, he said, that the United States and Japan have begun to take negative views since the advent of the North Korean nuclear issue. But a practical policy has to be taken to assure the North Korean leadership that the international community is not trying to destroy their political system, he said.

"We are not saying that through international cooperation for the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, we are trying to destroy the North Korean regime, blockade the country or impose sanctions," he said. "Rather, we are saying let us try to help create an atmosphere in which North Korea could participate in the international community," Han said.

DPRK Reportedly Makes Secret Request for Rice

*SK1810113493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Beijing, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea has asked South Korea for 1 million tons of rice in the form of a loan, an informed source said on Monday.

"North Korea is known to have asked the South Korean Government through a figure in a third country who has contact with both South and North Korean officials to supply a million tons of rice as a loan," the source told YONHAP. North Korea also asked that its request for rice be kept secret, the source said. The source, however,

said he did not have any information on details of terms of repayment or methods of shipment set forth by Pyongyang.

In Seoul, a senior official at the National Unification Board said he was unaware of a North Korean request for rice.

North's Power System Said To Support Kim Chong-il

*SK1610054593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 16 (YONHAP)—At the core of North Korea's power structure are those people on the upper rungs of the Workers' (communist) Party, as in other communist countries. Position in the hierarchy of the party is based on the need to maintain the monolithic dictatorial system and the degree of one's allegiance to the party, and any change in the hierarchy reflects a change in the power structure.

North Korea's power structure has undergone many changes to maintain Kim Il-song's dictatorship. In those changes, not a few people were reinstated who had been purged in an earlier change.

In December 1950, for example, Im Chun-chu was expelled by the party after being branded a "coward" but made a beautiful comeback when he eulogized Kim Il-song as "the sun of mankind" and as "a matchless great man" and in recognition of his exceptional role in making Kim Chong-il the No. 2 man in the country.

O Chin-u, the No. 3 man after Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, also climbed the hierarchical ladder by praising Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il and by slandering his rivals.

Since October 1980, when he emerged as the No. 2 man in the sixth party congress, North Korea's power structure has been rebuilt to support Kim Chong-il.

Those opposing the junior Kim's emergence as strong man were demoted or purged, while his acolytes became the new elite. Pak Su-tong and Hong Si-hak were moved down the party hierarchy, while Hyon Mu-kwang, So Kwan-hui and Ho Chong-suk were promoted. A ceremony last year for the 44th anniversary of the government was attended by 21 Politburo members, the people who comprise the core of North Korea's power structure. Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u occupied the top three places as Politburo Presidium members, and their power had not changed since the sixth party congress in 1980.

Following them (in order) were Vice President Yi Chong-ok, Vice President Pak Song-chol, Premier Yon Hyong-muk, Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Chief of General Staff Choe Kwang, party Secretary Kye Ung-tae, party Secretary Chon Pyong-ho, party Secretary Han Song-yong, Chief Secretary of the South Pyongan Province Party Committee So Yun-sok, and Chief Secretary

of the North Hamgyong Province Party Committee Kang Song-san. Yon was moved up to fourth place in the hierarchy in 1991 and then moved back to sixth last year, and Choe, chief of General Staff since 1988, had been purged in 1969. Kye, Chon and Han are believed to be core members of Kim Chong-il's group of loyalists.

In the 20th plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Party in December last year, Kang replaced Yon as premier, while vice premier and External Economy Commission Chairman Kim Tal-hyon and party Secretary Kim Yong-sun were made alternate members of the Politburo and Kim Il-song Higher Party School Director Kim Kuk-tae and Party Propaganda and Agitation Director Kim Ki-nam were elected party secretaries.

Kang is known to have been matchlessly loyal to the party since 1960. This, together with his conservative position on the party's South Korea policy and his experience in the economic field, must have pleased Kim Chong-il and been the reason behind his promotion to premier last year, analysts say.

This year's ceremony for the anniversary of the government showed the rankings to be Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u still firmly ensconced at the top, followed now by Premier Kang Song-san, Vice President Pak Song-chol, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, party Secretary Choe Tae-pok, party Secretary Kim Yong-sun, Vice Premiers Choe Yong-nim, Hong Song-nam, Kang Hui-won and Kim Tal-hyon, party Secretaries Kim Chung-nin, Yun Ki-pok, So Kwan-hui, Hwang Chang-yop and Pak Nam-ki, Vice Premiers Kim Pok-sin, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Hwan and Chang Chol, Supreme People's Assembly Chairman Yang Hyong-sop and State Inspection Commission Chairman Chon Mun-sop.

Despite the changes from last year, the main content is the same and supporters of Kim Chong-il are in the majority.

Yon Hyong-muk was demoted from full to alternate member of the Politburo and from premier to chief secretary of Chagang Province Party Committee in December, and it is thought that the reason is that he is closer to Kim Il-song than to Kim Chong-il.

As a result, there will be no basic change in North Korea's power structure until the seventh party congress, a date for which has not been set, though there may be minor adjustments such as Yon's demotion.

Portuguese President Visits 38th Parallel

LD1510224693 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1900 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Today in South Korea, President Mario Soares started the first stage of his visit to Asia. Following a meeting with the South Korean president, President Soares visited the 38th Parallel, the line which

divides the two Koreas and is the last symbol of the cold war. More details from our correspondent Cesario Borga:

[Borga] Mario Soares' visit to the 38th Parallel, which divides the two Koreas, was the highlight of this first day in South Korea. Some hours earlier, President Soares met Kim Yong-sam, the first civilian Korean president for the past 32 years. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What is your reaction to this last symbol of the cold war?

[Soares] I think it is wrong. I believe it should have already ended. This is in fact a symbol of times past. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Kim Yong-sam Helps Farmers With Rice Harvest

SK1610045193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0424 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Iksan, North Cholla Province, Oct. 16 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam was out in the fields helping with the rice harvest Saturday, joining farmers in Sukgok village in Iksan, North Cholla Province. He tried his hand at driving a combine harvester and rolled up his sleeves to help to bring home the crop for about 20 minutes.

Earlier in the day, Kim was briefed on the regional harvest forecast by North Cholla Governor Yi Kang-nyon and issued instructions for farmers hurt by crop failure to receive subsidies. He urged more effort in research and development on agricultural reform to produce cheaper and better quality rice.

After lunching with the farmers, Kim toured Harim Food Co., a poultry farming and processing company, and called on the farm processing industry to generate improvements in farming structure and thus lure people back to the countryside.

New Transportation Minister, Port Administrator

SK1810002693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] This morning, President Kim Yong-sam replaced Transportation Minister Yi Kye-ik and Maritime and Port Administration Director General Yom Tae-sop, respectively, with former Commerce Minister Chong Chae-sok and Kim Chol-yong, director of the Aviation Bureau of the Transportation Ministry. President Kim replaced the two former officials due to their responsibility for the Sohae ferry disaster.

Spokesman on Replacement of Transport Minister

SK1810021193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0137 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam replaced the transportation minister and the maritime and port administrator on Monday to take

responsibility for the Oct. 10 sinking of the Sohae ferry in which at least 265 passengers and crew are known to have perished so far.

Kim named former Trade and Industry Minister Chong Chae-sok Transportation Minister, replacing Yi Kye-ik, and appointed Kim Chol-yong, a former director general of the Aviation Bureau of the Transportation Ministry, maritime and port administrator, replacing Yom Tae-sop. The replacements, made nine days after the sinking of the Sohae-ho ferry, was announced by presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae.

The announcement came as the government's rescue and salvage efforts reached the final stage, although the salvage operation hit a snag when the refloated Sohae-ho sank again Sunday night.

President Kim took the action to relieve Yi Kye-ik and Yom Tae-sop of their positions in connection with the sinking of the Sohae-ho, the spokesman said.

"The decision was made upon the recommendation of Prime Minister Hwang In-song at Chongwadae [presidential office] on Monday morning," Yi said. "The ceremony for the appointments of the new transportation minister and new maritime and port administrator will be held later in the morning."

The replacement of a cabinet minister is the first for Kim. It underscores the acute sense of responsibility felt by the president and his administration over not only the sinking of the ferry but two other large and serious accidents that involved a train and an airliner.

President Kim has decided to carry out personnel changes at the top level of his government in order to tighten his administration and place the responsibility squarely on the Ministries concerned, according to Yi. Both the newly-appointed transportation minister and maritime administrator have plenty of administrative experience in their fields, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, Kim called an unscheduled meeting of cabinet ministers, vice ministers and heads of the government agencies at Chongwadae on Monday afternoon to announce overall measures on the ferry incident and the government position, Yi said.

*** Ascent of Defense Minister Kwon Discussed**

932C0232A Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Sep pp 392-410

[By reporter Yu Yong-won]

[Text] The cabinet member whose name has most frequently appeared in the press in the past five months is probably Kwon Yong-hae, minister of the Ministry of National Defense [MND]. Many would feel that it is not a desirable thing for an MND minister—the highest military authority who should be working mutely away from the eyes of the public—to be so much visible in media. Even worse, he has been as frequently in the

limelight as a "central figure" of scandals and irregularities which were by no means honorable for himself and the military. Besides his "media appearance rate," MND Minister Kwon seems setting new records in a few other categories.

He tendered his resignation to President Kim Yong-sam as the belated disclosure of the fact that his brother, Kwon Yong-ho, had received 50 million won in bribery from an arms broker led to a controversy. But the president reaffirmed his confidence in MND Minister Kwon. This prompted speculations that Kwon is "perhaps more powerful than Choe Hyong-u, former secretary general, who was the real power of the reform force." Unlike Choe Hyong-u, who was promptly replaced because of his son's controversial illegal admission to Kyongwon University, Kwon won the president's reaffirmation of trust despite the fact that he was repeatedly involved in controversies. Kwon, after all, endured a situation in which he found himself under fire virtually from all directions but Chongwadae and the ruling camp and thus "besieged by foes on three sides" which included the opposition and journalism.

Even without the reaffirmed presidential trust, few would deny that Kwon is a minister of extraordinary "real power." In the old days the commander of the Defense Security Command [DSC] or the Army chief of staff used to hold a tete-a-tete with the president and had a free hand on personnel management; as for Kwon, however, the MND minister himself is in control of personnel management and make decisions in consultation with the president.

For military reform, Kwon has done a tremendous job in the past five months, which he said was "as long as five years." An unprecedentedly ferocious typhoon ripped through the military, leaving such scars behind as the blitz-type dismissals of general officers who were members of the private club Hanahoe—among them the Army chief of staff—and top military leaders involved in the 12 December [1979] incident, the devastating promotion bribery cases involving Navy and Air Force officers, and the auditing of the "Yulgok" military build-up program. Needless to say, a larger part of what he did was done under outside pressure rather than on his own. The typhoon's velocity was well proved by the fact that the volume of press items dealing with the military in the past five months was four to five times the average annual volume.

Few would get more conflicting performance ratings inside and outside the MND than Kwon does. A recent opinion poll showed him as most questionable in terms of morality of all the cabinet members. It pointedly shows how the public views him.

They seem to think that his morality is questionable because in the past, while serving as the chairman of the Military Build-Up Committee when he was vice defense minister, he was deeply involved with the Yulgok program which has become a synonym for corruption and

irregularity. Inside the military, however, not many seem to be skeptical of his morality.

Kwon has thus become a focus of public attention under the circumstances where no special relationship with President Kim Yong-sam has been reported. For the high degree of public concern, not much has been known about his personal history. Here is a look at the unknown part of it.

He was born on 9 September 1937 to a wealthy educationist's family in Ibsil-ri, Oedong-myon, Wolsong County, North Kyongsang Province. He is the first son and has a brother and four sisters. When his father established a middle school in Oedong-myon, he changed to Oedong Middle School from another school he had been attending. One of his cousins is the principal of Kyongju High School a present.

He entered the Military Academy in 1955 as a member of the 15th class. He was the only Kyongju High graduate admitted. While in the academy, he was a model cadet quiet, sincere and introspective, according to former classmates. His grades were high and, in the commencement exercise in 1955, he won the highest awards in three subjects—philosophy, economics and law. Those close to him think that his outstanding eloquence and analytic capability were cultivated in those days.

For his excellent grades, Kwon could remain in the Military Academy and become an instructor. But he turned down the offer in favor of a career as a field army officer. In the academy at the time, Yim Tong-won, former minister of the National Unification Board (the Military Academy 13th class) was renowned for his unique presence in the field of social science.

Kwon met his wife, Kim Hyo-sun, 52, a few years after his graduation from the Military Academy at the wedding of a classmate of his, Hong Tae-kwon, who is presently chief director of the Military Personnel Mutual Aid Society, at which she was the pianist. He began courting her and eventually married. His wife is from Hwanghae Province. It is known that her parents were devoted Christians and died for their faith. She is a graduate of the piano department of the Seoul National University [SNU] school of music. It can be said that her specialty led to her marriage with Kwon. They have three daughters.

MND Minister Kwon once served as shooting supervisor at the Nonsan Training Camp when he was a first lieutenant. He seems to have a not very good memory of his days there. The training camp then was apparently a hotbed of corruption and irregularities; money could buy everything. He was there in April this year in a visit extremely unusual for an MND Minister to make. Commenting on his unpleasant experience, he referred to the camp's operations then in a tone so critical that it surprised officials there. He said:

"At the time, I was the shooting supervising instructor whose job was to confirm scores of individual trainees

after each target practice. Irregularities had been so widespread in the camp that they appointed me, a regular Military Academy graduate, to that job. Bribing and rigging scores were a common practice."

In the mid-1960's, he participated in the Vietnam War as a member of the Crux Unit. While on the team to organize a new unit, the 100th Logistic Base Command, he came to know, and form his ties with, O Cha-pok and Yi Ki-paek, who were both to become ministers of national defense. At the time, both O and Yi were junior field officers. The three who were in the same unit all became ministers of national defense later, setting a rare precedence. It is known that O had a favorable view of Kwon in those days, and that when he became minister of national defense, he promoted Kwon to the director of the Office of Planning and Management [OPM].

Kwon's career as a field army officer continued. He was a regimental commander of the 12th Division in 1978, and when the 12 December incident broke out in 1979, he was fighting heavy snowfalls atop Hyangnobong. In 1981, he was in Kangwon Province as commander of the 88th Brigade (the present 22d Division), organizing the new unit and commanding it at the same time. That was the second unit he founded. Military officials are of the opinion that organizing new units—comparable to producing something from nothing—is an extremely tough assignment requiring a great deal of experience and ability, and that therefore, Kwon's administrative management ability which is highly appreciated now must have been cultivated in those days.

In 1982, he became the headquarters commander of the Army Headquarters. He was now in charge of its overall management. The then Army chief of staff, Hwang Yong-si, reportedly scouted for him. When Hwang was the commandant of the Third Military Academy, he was greatly impressed by the outstanding operational management ability of Kwon who was then the head of the science of tactics section. Kwon finished the policy development course at the SNU graduate school of administration in the same year.

In those days, he purchased some 30,000 pyong of hilly land in Koesan, North Chungchong Province. According to him, he bought it at the suggestion of a staff member to build a retirement home. He planted chestnut trees there and later shared the harvested nuts with local residents. He often spent weekends there.

In 1984, he was appointed a division commander, a post coveted by Army officers. While in the post of 6th Division commander, his rational way of commanding was popular among subordinates, it is said. A Mr. "Y" who was staff officer under him then said:

"He was a faithful Christian and I was impressed by his faith, his straightforwardness and impartiality with subordinates. He used to invite even families of noncommissioned officers to tea parties in his official residence. At such parties, he would not sit in the head table but mingle with guests enjoying lively, frank conversations

With them. At staff meetings, he would listen to officers present more than he was expected to."

While what Mr. "Y" said is yet to be verified, MND Minister Kwon on 8 May this year, the Father's Day, invited low-grade employees at the MND such as cleaners and sweepers to a tea party. He was said to be the first MND Minister ever to do that.

While a division commander, Kwon compiled reference materials on commanding techniques and distributed them to officers under him. It shows his thoughtfulness. Contained in the materials put together in June 1984, in 64 pages altogether, were words of affirmative, positive values and suggestions for commanding officers of various levels and executive personnel including battalion commanders, staff officers, junior-grade officers, and noncommissioned officers. To quote a passage:

"We frequently use the word *wi-ki* or crisis. However, few seem to know that the two Chinese characters making up the word connote two important things. The first character *wi* means 'danger' while the second character *ki* implies 'opportunity.' Combined, the connotation is that a crisis, when it comes to us, can be turned into a golden opportunity for a brilliant development, depending on how we respond to it."

In 1986, Kwon was appointed chief of staff of the 3d Army (a major-general post), and subsequently deputy commander of the 3d Army. The commander of the 3d Army then was Gen. Choe Se-chang (the Military Academy 13th class). Kwon later served as vice minister under Choe when the latter became the MND minister. People who were around him remember that Kwon displayed his outstanding administrative management ability in the 3d Army, too. As the chief of staff, he wrote a very original thesis, titled "The Question of Equality in the Form of Fulfillment of the Obligatory Military Service in Our Country." It was not one intended for a doctorate; he just wrote it because he felt that the nation's military service system has problems in terms of equality. As such, the thesis was unique.

Kwon's view critical of the present military service system is well reflected in the 34-page thesis. It is noteworthy that the series of reforms announced since he became MND Minister are in consistency of his view contained in it. To quote a passage from the thesis:

"Under the present system, legal and factual disadvantages are unilaterally on the draftee. When comparing their cases with those yet to fulfill the obligatory service or exempted from it, we know that the principle of equality is not there, a fact responsible for the growing tendency among youths to try to avoid the conscription if possible at all."

Noting such problems inherent in the present system, he proposed corrective measures, including the shortening of the term of service, a device to guarantee continuity between military service and social life, creation of a

military service exemption tax, a ban on biased treatment relating to military service, and a study of the feasibility of a Israeli-type mobilization system placing greater emphasis on reservists than on regular forces.

At the end of his term as the 3d Army chief of staff, Kwon experienced a setback. Normally, when an officer completes his term as the chief of staff, he gets his promotion to lieutenant general and is reassigned as corps commander. In his case, however, he was appointed deputy commander of the 3d Army. It was apparently extremely frustrating to him and his subordinates in the command. At the time, some attributed the setback to an intervention by Hanahoe.

After serving out his term as deputy commander, Kwon was named to be the commander of operations supporting the 1988 Olympic Games. It was a command created to provide the Games with systematic military support including material and manpower support. As for Kwon, it was the third command he was to put together. At the end of that assignment, he retired from his 30 years of military life in late 1988.

But a ray of hope lit up his future which otherwise appeared to be a humdrum one worthy of a retired major general. Kwon had been on the reserve list several months when he was appointed director of the OPM of the MND. It was known that he was picked out by the MND minister then, O Cha-pok, who participated in the Vietnam War with him and who had since highly appreciated his administrative ability. At the time, the directorship of the OPM was a key post responsible for MND policies and the director's grade was equivalent to that of an assistant vice minister such as the first and second assistant vice ministers. In those days, the directorship of the Office of Policy—which has since been made independent and levelled up to its present assistant vice minister grade—was under the director of the OPM, who had much more things to do those days than he has now.

Serving as the director of the OPM, he laid the foundations even more firmly of his now renowned outstanding administrative ability, it is said. He established himself as the highest authority of administrative management both in name and reality while in charge of MND planning and management, involving himself even with the Yulgok program which had been beyond his reach in the past, not to mention personnel management policies and administrative details. Unlike other high officials in the MND who were more closed to the press than they are now, Kwon was on friendly terms with reporters and enjoyed high approval rates among them. While the director of the OPM, he succeeded in letting his name, "Kwon Yong-hae, the man of administrative management," be known to people not only in the MND but in other ministries and agencies as well, despite the handicap of the relatively low rank he held last, major general.

In 1990, he made a vertical ascent to vice minister in an unprecedented promotion. It was a post which would normally go to an ex-lieutenant general. MND officials

generally welcomed the appointment, while reporters close to him wrote tidbits greeting the promotion. His appointment as vice minister was said to be the result of a high approval rating by then MND Minister Yi Chong-ku.

While in that post, Kwon attended the annual ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) many times and, as a working-level member, was deeply involved and remarkably active. Also, as chairman of the Military Build-Up Committee that has a final say on acquisitions of weapons systems, he was deeply involved with the execution of the Yulgok program, gaining the reputation that "the Yulgok program is a synonym of Kwon Yong-hae." Under MND Minister Choe Se-chang, who was relatively weak with technical matters, Kwon was known to be proxy for him on such matters.

All that reputation caused a great deal of suspicions on his role, and he became a focus of investigation in the recent Board of Audit and Investigation [BAI] inquiry into the Yulgok program. Major decisions made under the program while he was vice minister included the introduction of the French surface-to-air missile Mistral, the continuation of the K-1 tank gunpointer sight-scope project, and the decision on major equipment for the Korean Navy's next-generation destroyer (KDX).

Most troubling was the K-1 tank gunpointer sight-scope project. MND officials had been divided for years as to whether the controversial GPTTS of the U.S. Texas Instruments Inc. (TI) should be introduced after improvement or the GPSS of the Hughes Aircraft Co. should be reintroduced. The trouble was that although GPTTS was superior theoretically, there were problems in putting it to practical use.

Kwon reportedly said that "it is time for us, too, to have an equipment or two of the world's highest level" and decided in favor of the continued improvement of GPTTS. According to an official who witnessed this process, "Vice Minister Kwon then was prepared to tend his resignation should the project fail." While MND officials are of the opinion that they succeeded in securing the desired improvement of GPTTS and that the project was a success after all, the BAI noted that controversies continue over the accuracy of the gunpointer sight-scope and that some 16 billion won of tax payer's money was wasted because of the GPTTS' initial-phase defects.

Commenting on the reported suspicions concerning his role when he was the chairman of the Military Build-Up Committee, Kwon said that "as chairman of the committee at the time, I only exercised my voting right. Otherwise, I never used any influence."

He said: "The Military Build-Up Committee decides an issue by a unanimous vote. Even if a single member opposes, it cannot take a decision. The chairman has no

right to decide it either. As the chairman, I only exercised my voting privilege. Whenever there were differences, the debate continued until they were resolved and, as a result, the decision was always by a unanimous vote."

Vice Minister Kwon gained the reputation of being a distinguished working-level official not only in the MND but in other ministries and agencies as well. He reportedly displayed his outstanding briefing ability several times at the so-called strategy sessions of organizations concerned, made up by representatives of the MND, the Agency for National Security Planning and Chongwadae. A former high-ranking DSC officer who was present at one of such sessions held in a safety house near Chongwadae said:

"I would give higher marks to MND Minister Kwon's administrative ability than to his morality. I remember the briefings he gave so articulately on defense policies before high-ranking officials from various ministries and agencies. They left a strong impression to everyone present."

Unfavorable rumors about Kwon began circulating toward the end of last year as he was firming his position as the "working-level authority of the MND." In fact, they were the first negative ones for him, who had enjoyed fairly favorable appraisals of his performance until then. They alleged that Vice Minister Kwon had bought a 2 billion won worth luxurious villa with money obtained from his deep involvement with the Yulgok program and that the DSC had investigated him and reported the results to MND Minister Choe Se-chang. It was also alleged that based on the report, Choe recommended his ouster to President No Tae-u but the president turned it down.

The house which Kwon bought at the time is a 89-pyong palatial mansion in Karak-tong, Songpa-ku, Seoul, which had caused a controversy when built because it was furnished with luxurious foreign-made furniture. It was worth 1 billion to 1.3 billion won at the market value; to buy it, he sold his family apartment in Karak-tong to Lieutenant General "P" (the Military Academy 21st class; presently a corps commander) for about 700 million won. In the recent public disclosure of property, Kwon reported the value of the new house at 600 million won.

When his purchase of the mansion caused criticism, he explained to people close to him that when he found the house, he was looking for a house large enough for his family which includes his old mother and three grown daughters, and that the money for the purchase was raised by selling his old apartment plus his saving. The lieutenant General who bought the apartment from Kwon was appointed a corps commander in April this year, ahead of his Military Academy classmates. Thus, Kwon's name was on the tongues of people again.

While it has not been confirmed if the DSC actually obtained evidence of any irregularities involving Kwon

and reported them to MND Minister Choe, a high-ranking DSC official said: "At the time, there were tips unfavorable for Vice Minister Kwon from defense industry firms. And we indeed gathered such tips but they warranted no specific suspicions." "In fact," he said, "many of such tips were later found to be slanders by dealers eliminated in the competition for weapons contracts."

Kwon stayed on as vice minister despite such rumors until the start of the new government, firming up his foothold as an effective manager. U.S. officials at the SCM sessions called him a "tough guy." They saw him as a formidable negotiator. Vice Minister Kwon achieved remarkable results in the area of military diplomacy, too. Among them are the signing of munitions and defense industry cooperation pacts with Mongolia—Korea and Mongolia virtually had no exchange in the munitions area in the past—and with Southeast Asian nations such as Thailand and Indonesia, breathing some life into the nation's defense industry on the verge of collapse.

As the inauguration of the new government drew near, Kwon seemed to be putting his personal affairs in order. It was generally expected that vice ministers, not to mention ministers, would all be replaced under the new government. Vice Minister Kwon said that he had read *Hero's Gate*, a novel by Kim Yong when he had time. He reportedly planned to work with a private research institute on security affairs and write books on national defense when he retires.

However, President Kim Yong-sam, naming new cabinet members on 26 February, appointed Kwon MND minister against the general expectation. Media had speculated that Pak Hui-to, former Army chief of staff, and Min Pyong-ton, former commandant of the Military Academy would be named to that post. They were wide of the mark. Upon the announcement, many focused their concerns on the relationship between Kwon and President Kim. They wondered how the president came to know Kwon before appointing him to the major post.

Some claim that Kwon had been visiting Kim Yong-sam's residence at Sangdo-tong since last summer before the presidential election. Aides close to him deny the allegation. People around him offer a few different presumptions concerning the circumstances that led to the appointment.

One of them is that it is possible that politicians and high government authorities with personal knowledge of Kwon's performance as vice minister recommended him to the president. The prime minister then was Chong Won-sik. He saw Kwon frequently those days on official business. And following the presidential election, Chong served as chairman of the Transition Committee. Prior to the retirement of former President No Tae-u, Prime Minister Chong reportedly invited five vice ministers to a dinner, including Kwon; Yim Tong-won, vice minister of the Board of National Unification, and Chong Kap-su, vice minister of the Economic Planning Board.

Earlier on 13 January, Kwon, then vice minister, had the opportunity to brief the Transition Committee on defense administration for one hour 20 minutes. Present were Chairman Chong and committee members including Reps. Pak Kwan-yong and Yi Hwan-ui and, from the MND, Chang Song, director of the Office of Policy, and Yi Chong-nin, director of the OPM, as well as Vice Minister Kwon himself. After briefing the committee on the state of the MND including the command system and the present status of the nation's military power, and on MND policies for fiscal 1993 and other pending problems. Then, he answered questions.

At the session, Rep. Pak asked some pointed questions on nine subjects altogether, including the intelligence gathering on North Korea and the assessment of its military power, the possibility of launching a military spy satellite on our own, the reasons for our lagging behind North Korea in combat power despite the fact that our military spending is larger, and the possibility of shortening the term of the present obligatory military service. Kwon was most articulate fielding the questions. Rep. Pak must have been impressed and that impression was possibly conveyed to President Kim, they say.

Minister of Government Administration Choe Chang-yun, who was then chief secretary for the president of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], is also considered one of pro-Kwon figures. A member of the Military Academy 18th class, Choe Chang-yun is a follower of Kwon—who was his senior in the Military Academy—in many things. It is possible, they say, that he recommended Kwon to DLP President Kim Yong-sam.

Others claim that Kwon had made direct contact with President Kim. An opposition lawmaker who is relatively familiar with the military personnel management asserts that former MND Minister Yi Chong-ku recommended Kwon to Kim Yong-sam [YS]. He said: "MND Minister Yi Chong-ku took Vice Minister Kwon to Sangdo-tong and personally introduced him to YS. After that, the vice minister visited Sangdo-tong on several occasions, providing advice and suggestions on defense policies as requested. I understand that he even worked for YS' campaign."

No matter how he became MND minister, Kwon has turned the corner a number of times and is continuing his work for military reforms. In the five-odd months in the office of MND minister, he has been received favorably by the ministry's working-level officials, while active service personnel in the field reacted with a mixture of praise and criticism. As far as administrative affairs are concerned, bureau directors and division chiefs view him as the top authority. However, in the category of political strength such as his performance in representing and protecting the interests of the military, the ratings for him are apparently not very high.

Since the start of the new government, a number of general officers—the total number of their stars reaching way over 40—have been dismissed and the military has

been denounced as the hotbed of all irregularities and corruption. And critics contend that Kwon has failed to speak up on the hardships and unfairness to which the military is currently subjected to, and that he only acted as a faithful "executor." Criticism against Kwon is heard not only among ex-Hanahoe members but also among some battalion and regimental commanders who had nothing to do with Hanahoe in the past.

In this connection, MND Minister Kwon expressed his mixed feelings by saying that "I am deeply sad that all of them, the generals and field officers who have been dismissed, were my comrades-in-arms." At the same time, he disclosed his plan to make "a let-by-gones-be-by-gones declaration" on the Armed Forces Day on 1 October to ensure that the military will no longer be disturbed by the dark shadow of the past.

MND Minister Kwon's reform program focuses on five major tasks. Among them are elimination of various irregularities and corruptive practices including those involving the draft, structural improvement of the military and that in the compilation and management of the military budget, professional guarantee for and specialization of career personnel, and epoch-making improvement in the military pay and benefits. It covers every element of military reform. In this context, the MND has so far put out a series of plans for improvements in conscription administration and in the reserve force and draft systems, and for reorganization of the DSC. Those plans have been well received.

Besides these official policies, Kwon continues to work to replace the framework of the military by, for instance, eliminating the residue Hanahoe influence. While his ousting of ex-Hanahoe members from the military leadership one by one is applauded by a large majority of non-Hanahoe members who were in the past discriminated against by Hanahoe, it is feared that his actions may produce some ill effects. The incident of a dinner involving Yi Chung-sok, the former chief of operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the Military Academy 21st class), which occurred in July, drew public attention as it was viewed as the first case of resistance by Hanahoe.

After the BAI wound up its investigation of the Yulgok program which tormented him and the MND for three months, Kwon, showing his strong eagerness for reform, reportedly told people close to him that "now I am going to push for true reforms free from outside influence." He recently created a "Research Committee on Defense Reform" made up by 17 colonels and lieutenant colonels, and this committee is seen as a "desk force" to give a concrete form to his reform idea.

The nightmarish auditing of the Yulgok program is over with him but he still faces many hurdles to clear. Some still have a lingering suspicion of his morality. Meanwhile, the future course of Hanahoe's anti-reform reactions which are currently gathering strength remains a big question mark. The biggest question is how he—the

man-of-business type—can meet expectations of some of the officers in active service for a boss-type minister.

Another task for Kwon to grapple with is the view prevailing in a section of the political quarters that President Kim is keeping Kwon against his will for now because he has no alternative, that he will replace him toward the end of this year when the reform foundations will have been laid.

Will Kwon—whose ratings in the first six months in office have been a mixture of praise and criticism—be a short-lived MND minister only familiar with working-level affairs? Or will he prove that he worked hard for and was remarkably successful in military reforms at a time when the military was undergoing ordeals? What clever moves MND Minister Kwon will undertake will be noteworthy.

* Restructuring Diplomatic Missions in Demand

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[Article by reporter Pak Tu-sik: "Demands To Restructure Diplomatic Missions Growing]

[Text] Due to a scandal arising out of huge amounts of lawyer's fees charged by Mr. Lee Chung-bum (36), he recently resigned as the Secretary in Charge of People's Life in the Blue House. Prior to resigning, in preparation of a report, he inspected 16 embassies and legations abroad, including those of Tokyo, New York, etc. In the inspection, which was the first inspection of embassies and legations abroad by the Blue House Inspection Teams, four teams constituting nine inspectors took part from 24 July to 7 August.

Even after Secretary Lee resigned, a variety of rumors regarding the inspection are still circulating in the diplomatic circles. The rumors are that in his report, Secretary Lee requested a dismissal of 12 ambassadors and Secretary Lee, accompanied by his two friends in business, displayed his influence, etc. Using the inspection as a momentum, all the diplomats believe that a drastic reform of resident office system in foreign countries should be made.

It is said that immediately before the inspection, Secretary Lee met with the main executive members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as Minister Han Seung-joo, Vice-Minister Hong Soon-young, Chief of the Planning and Management Office Kim Kyung-chul, etc. and outlined the inspection. It makes no sense that an inspector should, in advance, explain the purport of the inspection to the recipients of inspections. Persons concerned explain that Secretary Lee's advance explanation of purport was thought to have been necessary to appease the displeasure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose embassies and legations abroad were being inspected irrationally by the Blue House. Regardless, it is said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was able to completely prepare for the inspection and better

express its ordinary problems to the inspection teams, receiving better results than it had expected. Due to Secretary Lee's untimely resignation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs fears that the report which includes the diplomats' propositions will be kept idle. Reducing the number of resident officers is the main problem in the inspection of embassies and legations abroad. The substance of inspection must include a check of overseas officers conducting the affairs of the residents and the delegating abilities of overseas office chiefs, making the Ministry of Foreign Affairs displeased. However, in considering these situations at this time, problems such as a chain of command for diplomats and resident officers, which our diplomats were always unhappy about, were mainly pointed out.

As of end of July 1993, there is a total of 140 embassies and legations abroad, including consulates general and missions. Resident officers are people dispatched by their ministry to conduct business in the embassies and legations abroad. Its basis of law is the presidential decree regarding resident official appointment in embassies and legations abroad according to the Foreign Public Service Law. As of end of January 1993, 207 resident officers were dispatched to embassies and legations abroad by 22 ministries. Adding about 70 military attaches and about 170 agents of the National Security Planning Agency to the above, non-diplomatic resident officers number about 450.

Resident officers are sent to provide their professional skills such as in economic, trade, or military affairs to the diplomats who are incapable of performing these duties themselves. But in the diplomatic circles, only words of discords rather than of cooperation are heard. On non-official occasions, diplomats serving in embassies or legations often complain about "a certain resident officer disregarding ambassador's instructions" or "diplomatic activities not being conducted due to constant interruption by resident officers."

Discontent of diplomats is so great that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the restructure of the resident officer system, which the ministry is carrying forward on its own, its number one priority. Until last year, any discontent was suppressed since the then-president was from the military. After the new government took over, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested that the restructure of resident officer system be considered one of the most important reform tasks of the Ministry. It is said that in a business report presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to President Kim Young-sam, this problem was the top priority. Last May the Ministry made an overall report on this problem.

The biggest problem of the resident officer system, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is that other ministries dispatch resident officers only for the sake of personnel changes rather than for their abilities in performance of duties. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs claims that no higher than section chief level officers (secretary) should fill positions as resident officers and

only then can diplomats readily act in harmony with them and ambassadors or diplomatic ministers can readily command them. But in most cases, ranks of resident officers are actually higher than those of diplomats. A typical case is one that concerns military attaches assigned to the embassies. The military attache's colonel is equivalent in rank to that of a senior secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the ambassador's absence, it is particularly problematic because a military attache attempts to become an acting ambassador, creating trouble. One of the reasons for the above problem is that the structure of our military was generally adjusted upward.

Moreover diplomats and resident officers frequently engage in conflicts with one another. Their conflicts usually involve trifle matters such as getting better seats at parties, etc. rather than over competition conducting their duties. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other ministries dispatch unnecessary resident officers only for the sake of personnel changes. After entering into diplomatic relations with China last August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Economic Planning Board actually conflicted over appointing economic ministers to the embassy at Beijing and three consulates general at Shanghai, Shenyang, and Kwangtung. Following the appointment of economic minister to the United States, Koo Bon-young as the vice-minister of transportation in the new government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately appointed the consul-general at Chicago, Kim Jung-ki, as the new economic minister to the United States. It is a widespread belief that the economic ministries such as the Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Trade, Industry, & Resources, etc. was made aware of this action and regretted not having taken the initiative themselves prior to actions taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hence, diplomats and resident officers distrust each other's abilities in performing their duties. A typical case is the diplomats' distrust in the abilities of intelligence-gathering by the National Security Planning agents. Diplomats openly express their discontent saying that the National Security Planning agents, who have the right to inspect all intelligence, do not respond to their questions, using everyday the intelligence gathered by the diplomats. Moreover, the diplomats complain that even military attaches or resident officers dispatched by the police administration openly try to snatch the intelligence gathered by diplomats. In short, it is said that this system is unsuitable in competing in intelligence-gathering.

The members of other ministries also recognize in general that our resident officer system has been operated in an unfocused manner. A typical case is when the police administration dispatches resident officers. It does not dispatch to a specific place such as Paris, where Interpol is stationed, but dispatches as many as 13 resident officers to other places such as the main embassies and legations at Washington, Tokyo, etc. It is said that the

United States at one time, did not consent to our police stationing in the country, saying that "it is sneering at our public peace and order or intervening in our domestic affairs." As local self-governing bodies such as Seoul City etc., were going to dispatch resident officers in the middle of last year to exchange experience of local self-government with advanced nations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stoutly objected, saying, "Why is it necessary to dispatch resident officers for matters which can be easily accomplished by overseas training?"

Now about 70 Korean officials serve in the main embassies and legations such as those at Washington and Tokyo, etc. It could be said to be a miniature edition of the Korean Government. Of those officials the number of diplomats is less than one-third. The situation in all other embassies and legations is also similar. When the command abilities of ambassadors are feeble, the businesses of embassies and legations, it is said, are often paralyzed.

Recently to improve the resident officer system on a full scale, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that it would absorb every information officer in embassies and legations abroad belonging to the Ministry of Information. It is said that this is because it is no longer necessary to have the system organized to propagate the Korean Government to the press and main organizations in foreign countries, unlike in the previous dictatorial governments. It is only natural that the Ministry of Information is opposed to it. Where even one public official position is desperately sought after, the ministry cannot readily accept reduced system, losing all the budgets as well as its personnel.

With the new government taking over, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively planning the restructure of the resident officer system. Thus far, many sympathize with the contention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that unnecessary systems and personnel should be reduced without hesitation. Recently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised resident officers of other ministries that it could change the foreign official title from "attache

(resident officer)" to "secretary" or "counselor" of diplomatic official titles. It is actually a long-cherished desire of resident officers of the other ministries to be able to use diplomatic official titles instead of attache. The intention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that it would reduce the number of resident officers just as it had intended and in return, raise their status. But considering that all the resident officers in foreign countries use attache as an official title, it is hard to understand why our resident officers could not conduct their duties efficiently, citing unsuitable foreign official titles as the reason.

Now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is waiting for President Kim's resolution, since only when the Presidential Decree is revised, could the restructure of resident officer system begin.

NSP To Curtail Security Inspections of Agencies

*SK1810091793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT
18 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 18 (YONHAP)—The agency for National Security Planning (NSP) will reduce from 10 to four the number of ministries whose intelligence budgets are regulated by it, leaving the Foreign Ministry off its list and restricting such activity to only such counter-espionage affairs-related agencies as the Home, Defense and Justice Ministries, NSP Director Kim Tok said Monday.

Under the reforms that the NSP has been pursuing since the new government was formed in February, the number of central and local government agencies subject to NSP security inspections will be reduced from 2,056 to 160 national security-related agencies, Kim told a National Assembly Defense Committee hearing.

The NSP will improve the security inspection system whereby it transfers investigations of agencies that have relatively little influence on national security to other government oversight agencies, he said.

He added that the NSP will continue to coordinate the intelligence planning of government agencies to maintain inter-agency cooperation and promote national security.

Burma

'Insurgents' Throw Grenades Into Crowd Killing 7

BK1710151793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The terrorist insurgents are disturbing and obstructing the peace and they are carrying out destructive activities for no reason with the aim of maiming and killing the people who want to live peacefully under the rule of law.

On the evening of 14 October, while the (Taungywin) Village team and local command team were playing on a football field in Lamaing Village in Ye Township, two Karen terrorist insurgents callously threw two hand grenades into the spectators and ran away. In the attack, seven people—two innocent students, one female teacher, two (?spectators), and two security guards—were killed and 45 people—27 men, six women, and 12 children—were wounded.

Responsible personnel from the local command, Ye township law and order restoration council, and Lamaing village law and order restoration council; nurses and doctors from Ye People's Hospital and Lamaing Hospital; teachers, students, fire fighters, and members of the Red Cross brigade rushed to the scene and helped transporting the dead and wounded to hospital. They also donated blood, treated the wounded, spoke words of encouragement to the relatives of the dead and wounded, and donated clothes to them.

In the attack, 38 people were seriously wounded and were transferred to Moulmein People's Hospital and No. 5 [words indistinct] for treatment. Colonel Thiha Thura Sit Maung, tactical commander of the Southeast Military Command, and officials; Lieutenant Win Aung, secretary of the Mon State Law and Order Restoration Council, and responsible personnel visited the seriously wounded people and provided needed assistance.

With public assistance, military columns from the local command, the people's police force, people's militias, and responsible personnel from the respective law and order restoration councils are searching for the terrorist insurgents who callously threw the grenades.

Rival Drug Lord Said To Accept Khun Sa Cease-Fire

BK1610024493 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
16 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] Khun Sa, the self-styled freedom fighter wanted by the United States for heroin trafficking, has reached a ceasefire and cooperation agreement with a rival drug warlord in Burma, a guerrilla source said yesterday. Khun Sa and Chao Yelai, of the Wa ethnic minority, reached the agreement at a secret location inside Burma two weeks ago, said the guerrilla source with contacts close to Khun Sa.

"Maybe the opium war along the Thai border will die down in the next couple of months but you can expect an upsurge of heroin flowing into the market," he said. By US estimates, more than 2,000 tonnes of opium are already produced each year in Burma's part of the so-called "Golden Triangle" growing region.

The source said Khun Sa had agreed to cooperate with the Wa after realising the heroin factories in his Shan State territory were having to rely on raw opium produced in Wa areas further north.

"Most of the opium growing fields are now in the Wa-controlled areas of northern Burma bordering China. That forced Khun Sa to turn his foe to his friend," the source said.

Khun Sa says his Mong Tai Army, which claims to have 20,000 guerrilla fighters, is fighting for independence, but Thai military sources and US drug agents say it is used to protect his herom business. Khun Sa is under indictment by a US court for large-scale heroin trafficking. A close aide to Khun Sa said recently that his fighters had been locked in bitter battles with the Wa over the past five years in which more than 500 fighters had been killed. The fighting has tended to flare up around the new year when the harvested opium is taken to clandestine factories and on to market.

51 Prisoners Released from Myaungmya Jail

BK1510145293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] It has been learned that 51 male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released today from Myaungmya Jail after their remaining sentences were commuted according to the Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba Resigns

BK1610045193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0337 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed announced Friday that his deputy Ghafar Baba (?had submitted) his letter of resignation from the government post. The resignation letter was submitted by Ghafar's political secretary to the prime minister's confidential secretary on Thursday (?morning).

On Thursday night, Ghafar's son Mohamed Tamrin told reporters that his father had submitted his resignation from his posts as deputy prime minister and minister of

rural development. However, Dr. Mahathir told reporters that Ghafar was resigning only as the deputy prime minister.

Asked whether he had made any decision on Ghafar's letter, the prime minister said he had not made up his mind yet and that he had plenty of time to decide. I have received his letter. Dr. Mahathir told reporters who thronged the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang well before his scheduled departure for Malta for a two-day visit, attending the Commonwealth heads of government meeting (CHOGM) in Cyprus.

Speculation that Ghafar would resign grew rife after the conclusion in September of nominations for posts in the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) Supreme Council elections. Dr. Mahathir is the president of the party and Ghafar is his number two in the party which is a major component of the ruling National Front coalition and traditionally the holders of the two posts have also held the posts of prime minister and deputy prime minister.

Singapore

Israel's Rabin Arrives for Talks 15 Oct

BK1510122693 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is in Singapore on a two-day visit. He arrived today from Indonesia. A Foreign Ministry's statement said Mr. Rabin will meet Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew. While in Jakarta, Mr. Rabin met President Suharto. Israel has no relations with Indonesia, but is seeking to expand ties with the Muslim world since signing a peace agreement with the PLO last month.

Rabin Discusses Indonesia Stop

TA1510115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report from Singapore by Karmela Menashe with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's entourage—live]

[Excerpts] Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not fly today to Tashkent in Uzbekistan, as had been reported, but instead conferred with Indonesian President Suharto. Rabin and his entourage flew to Indonesia, the fifth largest country in the world, this morning aboard an Israel Air Force jet. He was in a very good mood when we spoke to him on the plane.

The plane took off from Shanghai Airport at 0700 and landed in Indonesia at 1220 local time. The prime minister and his entourage kept the whole thing under utmost secrecy, and a senior source told us that even the Chinese at the airport did not know about the flight plan until shortly before take-off. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was not informed immediately but later and in

time, as the prime minister put it. The Americans did not know anything about it either. The official in charge of the Middle East Department at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs was summoned to the airport. He spoke with the control tower, and the flight was approved. The president of Uzbekistan was waiting for Rabin at the airport, unaware of what was cooking until the local Israeli ambassador informed him about it.

The give-and-take with the Indonesians continued until late last night. Their condition for holding the meeting was that it be kept secret and not in the presence of the media because they feared security problems. The plane landed in Jakarta at noon, when prayers are being held in the mosques, and the Indonesians feared that there could be incidents if the news leaked out at that time. The two sides ultimately agreed to put off publication until after the meeting. The Indonesians said that if word leaked out of the meeting beforehand, they would cancel it.

In the meeting with the Indonesian president, the prime minister raised the peace process, Iran, captive navigator Ron Arad, and the Israeli MIA's and POW's. In a brief interview we conducted with the prime minister aboard the plane, Rabin said the Indonesian president, who hosted him in his private residence, had promised to work on the issue. [passage omitted]

[Begin Rabin recording] Indeed, I believe it was a meeting of utmost importance. President Suharto is the leader of the largest Muslim country and heads the Nonaligned Movement. The mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, the signing of the agreement of principles and the start of its implementation through the meetings held in Cairo and Taba opened new horizons before the State of Israel, which had for many years tried to hold such meetings and to see openness in the Islamic and Arab worlds and in the world at large. I think this was an important meeting because now that it is over, it will be made public. It was photographed and held in the open, no longer clandestinely. True, we had to prevent any advance publicity, because that was the condition for holding it. I am sorry about any inconvenience that might have been caused, for which I—not the journalists—am fully responsible. I consider the meeting a breakthrough for the strengthening of bilateral relations.

The Indonesian president and I discussed bilateral issues. My main goal was to win the support of the Nonaligned Movement, currently headed by President Suharto, for the process and the agreements, because this will by nature lead to broad support from countries in that part of the world, some of which are wavering or even have misgivings about the agreements. If we muster such support on the part of the nonaligned countries, I believe this will increase our ability to implement the agreements as we would like. [end recording]

The prime minister added that any advance talk about specific meetings is a foolproof way to prevent such encounters. I believe something has changed in our

country following the decision to recognize the PLO and implement autonomy. The subsequent openness in the world has created great political and economic opportunities for Israel. 'Arafat visited Indonesia a month ago and presented the Palestinian side, and I thought it would only be fitting to present the Israeli position to the man who heads the 108-state Nonaligned Movement and to explain to him how we perceive the process and what our considerations are, Rabin said. I spoke of Israel's sensitivity on the security issue. I did not seek his response but asked him to voice his and the Nonaligned Movement's support for the agreements and for issues such as our POW's and MIA's. The Indonesian president promised to look into the matter, Rabin said.

He would not elaborate on their discussion about Iran. He just said he had raised the question of the opposition to the agreement on the part of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. Of course, I did not hesitate to mention the name of the Muslim country backing them, the prime minister asserted.

We asked Rabin about the possible establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in light of today's meeting, and he said: I do not think diplomatic relations are to be expected soon. This was not the issue I spent much time on.

As noted, the prime minister and his entourage landed in Singapore a short time ago, where he will confer with the country's leaders. On its way back to Israel, the plane will make a stopover in Kenya, where the prime minister may hold a series of meetings.

Meets With Lee Kuan Yew

BK1610115293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of Israel and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew discussed the Middle East peace process during their hour-long meeting today. Mr. Rabin spoke on the details and the implications of the peace agreement Israel signed with the PLO last month. He also briefed Mr. Lee about his talks with Chinese leaders and President Suharto of Indonesia. The senior minister said the signing of the agreement opened a new chapter and opportunities in the Middle East. He hoped the agreement would help Israel develop relations with the Arab and Muslim world.

On the Indonesian visit, a spokesman for the Israeli delegation said the meeting with President Suharto was significant. He believed the meeting would facilitate (?many more) exchanges in the future, starting with trade and economic matters. Mr. Rabin will call on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong tonight.

Rabin Speaks at Embassy Party

TA1610125893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that he had reached the conclusion that Israel should move

forward with the Palestinians and that Syria should be kept waiting. This was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe who is accompanying the prime minister on his Far Eastern tour. Speaking at a dinner party with the staff of the Israeli Embassy in Singapore, Mr. Rabin added that he knows the price of peace with Syria, but he does not know what the Syrians mean when they speak of peace.

Singapore welcomed the prime minister's visit, held after he met Indonesian President Suharto in Jakarta. Today, Rabin toured Singapore and met with Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of the city-state who is considered the spiritual leader of Singapore.

At the conclusion of Rabin's visit in the PRC, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attache there said that the visit will contribute to improved ties between Israel and the PRC and perhaps also between the two armies. The attache, Major General Moshe Marom, defined Rabin's meetings in the PRC as good, and said that sources at the Beijing Ministry of National Defense told him they were very pleased with the visit, saying this is the beginning of a process of institutionalizing the ties between the two states and armies.

Cambodia

'Text' of Cambodian National Constitution

BK1310052193

[Editorial Report] The following text of the Cambodian Constitution has been translated from the Cambodian language official document of the Cambodian Government titled: Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

In addition, Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian on 30 September and subsequent days through 5 October carried in its 2300 GMT newscast a reading of the text of the Constitution. Differences between the two versions are given in editorial notations.

PREAMBLE

We, the Cambodian people,
Having been an outstanding civilization with a prosperous, large, flourishing, and glorious country with high prestige radiating like diamonds;
Having declined grievously during the past two decades, having endured suffering and destruction, and having been weakened terribly;
Having awakened and resolutely rallied and determined to unite for the consolidation of national unity, the preservation and defense of Cambodia's territory and precious sovereignty and the fine Angkor civilization, and the restoration of Cambodia into an "Island of Peace" based on a multiparty liberal democratic regime guaranteeing human rights, abiding by law, and having high responsibility for the nation's future destiny of moving toward perpetual progress, development, prosperity, and glory;

With this resolute will
We inscribe the following as the constitution of the
Kingdom of Cambodia:

CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

CHAPTER 1—SOVEREIGNTY

Article 1. Cambodia is a kingdom in which the king abides by the Constitution and multiparty liberal democracy. The Kingdom of Cambodia is an independent, sovereign, peaceful, permanently neutral, and nonaligned state.

Article 2. The Kingdom of Cambodia's territorial integrity is absolutely inviolable within its borders as defined in the 1/100,000 map drawn up between 1933 and 1953 and recognized internationally between 1963 and 1969.

Article 3. The Kingdom of Cambodia is an indivisible state.

Article 4. The motto of the Kingdom of Cambodia is: Country, Religion, and King.

Article 5. The official language and script are the Cambodian language and script.

Article 6. Phnom Penh is the capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The national flag, anthem, and emblem are defined in Annexes 1, 2, and 3.

CHAPTER 2—THE KING

Article 7. Cambodia's king reigns but does not wield power.

The king is head of state for life.

The king's person is inviolable.

Article 8. The king shall be the symbol of national unity and national perpetuity.

The king shall be the guarantor of national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia; he shall guarantee respect for the rights and freedom of citizens and respect for international treaties.

Article 9. The king shall assume the august role of arbitrator to ensure the faithful execution of public powers.

Article 10. Cambodia's monarchist regime is based on a system of selection.

The king shall not have power to appoint an heir to the throne.

Article 11. In the case where the king cannot fulfill his normal duty as head of state due to serious illness, confirmed by a group of experienced doctors selected by the Chairman of the Parliament and the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Parliament shall fulfill the duty of head of state on the king's behalf in his capacity as "regent."

Article 12. When the king dies, the Chairman of the Parliament shall assume the duty of acting head of state in his capacity as regent of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Article 13. Within a period of no longer than seven days, the new king of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall be selected by the Throne Council.

The Throne Council shall comprise:

- The chairman of the Parliament,
- The prime minister,
- The supreme patriarchs of the Mohanikay and Thoammayutikanikay sects, and
- The Parliament's first and second vice chairmen.

The organization and operation of the Throne Council shall be defined by a law.

Article 14. To be selected king of the Kingdom of Cambodia are members of the Cambodian royal family who are at least 30 years of age and who are the descendants of King Ang Duong, King Norodom, or King Sisowath.

Before his enthronement, the king shall take an oath as defined in Annex 4.

Article 15. The king's consort shall have the status of queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Article 16. The queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall have no right to participate in politics, act as a state leader or leader of the Royal Government, or assume any administrative or political role.

The queen of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall reserve her physical efforts for fulfilling royal duties in the interests of society, humanity, and religion and for assisting the king in his ceremonial and diplomatic obligations.

Article 17. The stipulation that the king reigns but does not wield power stated in Paragraph One, Article 7, of this Constitution absolutely may not be amended.

Article 18. The king shall maintain contacts with the Parliament through royal messages. The Parliament may not debate these royal messages.

Article 19. The king shall appoint the prime minister and the cabinet in accordance with procedures defined in Article 100.

Article 20. The king shall grant official audiences twice a month to the prime minister and his cabinet who shall inform him of the situation of the country.

Article 21. At the recommendation of the cabinet, the king shall sign royal decrees appointing, changing, or terminating the duties of high-ranking civilian and military officials and ambassadors and envoys extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

At the recommendation of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy, the king shall sign royal decrees appointing, changing, or removing jurisdictional judges.

Article 22. When the nation faces danger, the king shall publicly make an announcement placing the state of emergency in the country after securing the consent of the prime minister and the chairman of the Parliament.

Article 23. The king is the supreme commander of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces. The commander in chief of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces shall be appointed to command them.

Article 24. The king shall be the august chairman of the National Defense Supreme Council, which shall be created by a law.

The king shall declare war with the consent of the Parliament.

Article 25. The king shall receive credentials appointing foreign ambassadors or envoys extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Article 26. The king shall sign international treaties and conventions and ratify these treaties and conventions with the approval and assent of the Parliament.

Article 27. It shall be the king's right to commute sentences and grant pardons.

Article 28. The king shall sign royal acts to promulgate the Constitution and laws already passed by the Parliament and shall sign royal decrees at the request of the Cabinet.

Article 29. The king shall create and confer national decorations at the request of the Cabinet.

It is the king's prerogative to confer military and civilian ranks and titles as stipulated by law.

Article 30. In the absence of the king, the chairman of the Parliament shall assume the duty of acting head of state.

CHAPTER 3—RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CAMBODIAN CITIZENS

Article 31. The Kingdom of Cambodia shall recognize and respect human rights as defined in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and all treaties and conventions concerning human rights, women's rights, and children's rights.

Cambodian citizens shall be equal before the law and shall enjoy the same rights, freedom, and duties regardless of their race, color, sex, language, beliefs, religion, political tendencies, birth origin, social status, resources, or any other position. The exercise of an individual's personal rights and freedom shall not affect the rights and freedom of other persons. The exercise of these rights and freedom shall proceed according to conditions set by the law.

Article 32. Every citizen shall have the right to live and enjoy freedom and personal security.
Capital punishment shall not be instituted.

Article 33. Cambodian citizens shall not be deprived of their nationality, exiled, or extradited to any foreign countries, except those with mutual agreements.

Cambodian citizens living abroad shall be under the protection of the state.

The acquisition of Cambodian citizenship shall be defined by law.

Article 34. Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have the right to vote and to run for election.

Cambodian citizens of either sex of at least 18 years of age shall have the right to vote.

Cambodian citizens of either sex of at least 25 years of age may run for election.

Regulations limiting the right to vote and the right to run for election shall be defined in the electoral law.

Article 35. Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have the right to actively participate in the political, economic, social, and cultural activities of the country.

All proposals of the citizens shall be thoroughly examined and answered to by state organizations.

Article 36. Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have the right to choose professions in conformity with their capacity and the demands of society.

Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have the right to receive equal pay for equal work.

Household work shall have the same worth as remuneration from work performed outside the house.

Cambodian citizens of either sex shall be entitled to social welfare and other social benefits provided by law.

Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have the right to set up a trade union and to be members thereof.

The organization and operation of the trade union shall be defined by law.

Article 37. The right to strike and demonstrate peacefully shall be exercised within the legal frameworks.

Article 38. The law shall guarantee against bodily assaults on any person.

The law shall protect the life, honor, and dignity of the citizens.

Accusations against, arrest, detention, or imprisonment of a person may be made only when they are carried out correctly by virtue of the provisions of law.

Coercion, physical torture, or any actions that aggravate the punishment meted out against a detainee or prisoner shall be prohibited. The perpetrators, accomplices, and conspirators shall be punished by law.

Confessions obtained through either physical or mental coercion may not be used as proof of guilt.

The accused shall be given the benefit of the doubt.

Any accused shall be presumed innocent so long as the court has not yet handed down a final judgment.

Every person shall have the right to defend himself in court.

Article 39. Cambodian citizens shall have the right to sue, appeal, and demand reparations for damage caused by the illegal acts of state and social organizations and personnel thereof. Settlement of appeals and reparations of damage shall be under the jurisdiction of the court.

Article 40. The citizens' freedom to travel, near or far, and to take lawful habitation shall be respected.

Cambodian citizens may take up residence in foreign countries or return therefrom.

The preservation of the right to the inviolability of premises and to the secrecy of correspondences in the forms of letters, telegrams, facsimile, telex, and telephones shall be guaranteed.

The search of premises, materials, objects, and persons shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 41. Cambodian citizens are entitled to the freedom of expression, freedom of press, freedom of publication, and freedom of assembly. No person may abuse these rights to the detriment of another person's honor, the good customs of society, public order, and national security.

The media shall be organized by law.

Article 42. Cambodian citizens shall have the right to form associations and political parties. This right shall be defined by law.

All Cambodian citizens may participate in mass organizations to help one another protect national achievements and social order.

Article 43. Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have full right to believe.

The freedom of belief and religious practices shall be guaranteed by the state under the condition that they do not affect other beliefs or religions and public law and order.

Buddhism is the state religion.

Article 44. A person, be it an individual or a group, shall have the right to ownership. Only an individual, or a legal entity, of Cambodian nationality has the right to own land.

Lawful private properties shall be under the protection of the law.

Expropriation of the properties of a person may be effected only by virtue of the provisions of law for the purpose of public utility, and only after fair and proper indemnities have been paid.

Article 45. All kinds of discrimination against women shall be eliminated.

The exploitation of women's work shall be prohibited.

Man and woman shall enjoy equal rights in all aspects, especially in marriage and family.

Marriage shall be held according to conditions set by law and to the principles of consent and monogamy.

Article 46. Slavery, white slavery, and obscene acts affecting the dignity of women shall be prohibited.

The dismissal of women from work because of pregnancy shall be prohibited. Women are entitled to maternity leave with pay and with the guarantee that their length of service and other social benefits are maintained.

The state and society shall pay attention to creating conditions for women without any means of support,

especially those in the rural areas, to receive assistance so that they gain employment and are in a position to receive medical treatment, to send their children to school, and to enjoy a decent livelihood.

Article 47. Parents shall have the obligation to raise, take care of, and educate their children into good citizens.

Children shall have the duty to feed and take care of their aged parents in accordance with Cambodian customs.

Article 48. The state shall guarantee and safeguard children's rights as stipulated in the Convention on Children, especially the right to live, the right to receive education, the right to be protected in a war situation, and the protection against economic or sexual exploitation.

The state shall prohibit any undertakings detrimental to the education or learning of the children or injurious to their health or well-being.

Article 49. Every Cambodian citizen shall respect the Constitution and abide by the law.

Every Cambodian citizen shall have the obligation to contribute to national construction and national defense. The national defense obligation shall be carried out by virtue of the provisions of law.

Article 50. Cambodian citizens of either sex shall respect the principles of national sovereignty and multiparty liberal democracy.

Cambodian citizens of either sex shall respect public properties and lawful private properties.

CHAPTER 4—THE POLITICAL REGIME

Article 51. The Kingdom of Cambodia shall advocate multiparty liberal democracy.

The Cambodian citizens shall be the master of their country's destiny. All powers shall belong to the citizens. The citizens shall exercise their powers through Parliament, the Royal Government, and the tribunal.

The powers shall be separated into the legislative power, the executive power, and the judicial power.

Article 52. The Royal Government of Cambodia shall be committed to preserving and protecting the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia; advocating a national reconciliation policy in defense of national unity; and preserving and protecting the good customs and traditions of the nation. The Royal Government of Cambodia shall defend legality and ensure public order and security. The state shall pay priority attention to the livelihood and well-being of the citizens.

Article 53. The Kingdom of Cambodia shall always uphold the policy of permanent neutrality and nonalignment. The Kingdom of Cambodia shall peacefully coexist with all neighboring countries and other countries in the world.

The Kingdom of Cambodia absolutely shall not commit aggression against any countries; shall not interfere in

the internal affairs of other countries directly or indirectly and under whatever form; shall settle all problems peacefully; and shall respect mutual interests.

The Kingdom of Cambodia shall not establish any military alliance or enter into any military agreement that does not conform with its neutrality.

The Kingdom of Cambodia shall not permit any foreign military bases in its territory and also shall not permit its own military bases in foreign countries, except within the framework of a United Nations request.

The Kingdom of Cambodia shall preserve the right to accept foreign aid in terms of military materiel, arms, ammunition, training of the armed forces, and other aid for its own defense and for the maintenance of public order and security within the country.

Article 54. The production, use, and storing of nuclear, chemical, or bacteriological arms shall be absolutely prohibited.

Article 55. All treaties or agreements not conforming with the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, neutrality, and national unity of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall be abrogated.

CHAPTER 5—THE ECONOMY

Article 56. The Kingdom of Cambodia shall implement a system of market economy.

The organization and operation of this economic system shall be defined by law.

Article 57. Taxes may be levied only when authorized by law. The national budget shall be determined for implementation by law.

The management of foreign currency and financial system shall be defined by law.

Article 58. State properties consist of, among other things, land, ground, underground, mountains, sea, seabed, continental shelves, coast, airspace, islands, rivers, canals, streams, lakes, forests, natural resources, economic and cultural centers, national defense bases, and other installations defined as belonging to the state. The control, utilization, and management of state properties shall be defined by law.

Article 59. The state shall safeguard the environment and the balance of natural resources and shall map out a definite plan for controlling, among other things, the land, ground, water, airspace, air, geology, ecology, mines, energy, petroleum and gas, stone and sand, gemstones, forests and forest subproducts, wild animals, fish, and aquatic products.

Article 60. Citizens shall have the right to trade their produces freely. The requirement that produces be sold to the state or the appropriation of private produces or properties for use, even just temporarily, shall be prohibited, except for special cases permitted by law.

Article 61. The state shall promote economic development in all aspects, especially in the agricultural, handicraft, and industrial sectors, starting from remote areas,

by focusing on the water policy, electricity, roads and transportation means, modern technologies, and the credit system.

Article 62. The state shall pay attention to helping solve the problem of production means; protecting the prices of produces for farmers and handicraftsmen; and finding markets for produce.

Article 63. The state shall pay attention to managing the markets to ensure a decent living standard for the citizens.

Article 64. The state shall forbid and severely punish any person who imports, produces, or trades in narcotics or fake or expired goods that affect the health and lives of consumers.

CHAPTER 6—EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Article 65. The state shall protect and promote the right of the citizens to receive quality education at all levels and shall gradually take all kinds of measures so that this education reaches every citizen.

The state shall pay attention to the physical education and sports sector for the well-being of every Cambodian citizen.

Article 66. The state shall establish, throughout the country, a complete and unified educational system that guarantees the principle of freedom of education and the principle of equality in education so that every citizen enjoys sufficient and equal opportunities in life.

Article 67. The state shall implement a modern educational program and pedagogical principles, including technologies and foreign languages.

The state shall oversee public and private schools and classes at all educational levels.

Article 68. The state shall provide every citizen with free primary and secondary education in public schools.

The citizens shall be given at least nine years of education.

The state shall help disseminate and elevate Buddhist monks' schools and Buddhist studies.

Article 69. The state shall have the obligation to preserve and expand national culture.

The state shall have the obligation to protect and develop the Cambodian language as necessary.

The state shall have the obligation to safeguard temples, antiques, and ancient arts and to renovate historical sites.

Article 70. Offenses against or relating to the cultural or artistic heritage shall be severely punished.

Article 71. The perimeters of national heritage sites as well as those that have been classified as world heritage sites shall be regarded as neutral zones free from military activities.

Article 72. The health of the citizens shall be guaranteed. The state shall pay attention to disease prevention and therapy. Poor citizens are entitled to free medical examination at public hospitals, infirmaries, and maternity centers.

The state shall organize the establishment of infirmaries and maternity centers in rural areas.

Article 73. The state shall pay attention to children and mothers. The state organizes the establishment of nurseries and assists women who have numerous children in their charge and who are without support.

Article 74. The state shall assist the disabled and the families of soldiers who died for the country.

Article 75. The state shall provide a social security system for workers and employees.

CHAPTER 7—THE PARLIAMENT

Article 76. The Parliament shall have at least 120 members who are representatives of the people.

The representatives shall be elected in a general election, freely, equally, and directly through secret ballots.

The representatives may run for reelection.

Those entitled to be a candidate shall be any eligible Cambodian citizen of either sex who is at least 25 years of age and has Cambodian nationality by birth.

The body organizing the elections and the modalities and procedures of the elections shall be defined in the electoral law.

Article 77. The representatives in the Parliament represent the entire Cambodian nation and not just the citizens in their constituencies.

All coercive mandates shall be considered null.

Article 78. The term of the Parliament is five years and expires when the new Parliament takes office. The Parliament may not be dissolved before the end of its term, except in the case where the Royal Government has been dismissed twice in 12 months.

In this case, the king shall dissolve the Parliament at the recommendation of the prime minister and after securing the assent of the chairman of the Parliament.

The election to choose a new Parliament shall be held no later than 60 days from the date of the dissolution of the Parliament.

Pending the election, the Royal Government's duty shall be limited to providing leadership for day-to-day work only.

In time of war or under other special circumstances when the election cannot be held, the Parliament may declare the extension of its term by one year at a time at the recommendation of the king.

The declaration to extend the term of the Parliament shall be decided by a vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the Parliament.

Article 79. The mandate of a member of the Parliament is incompatible with his active public functions and his

functions as member of any other institutions defined in this Constitution, except his role in the Cabinet of the Royal Government.

In such cases, this member of the Parliament retains his capacity as an ordinary member of the Parliament but shall not have any position in the Standing Committee or other commissions of the Parliament.

Article 80. The representatives shall enjoy parliamentary immunity.

No representatives may be accused, arrested, detained, or imprisoned for having expressed his opinion or given his views while performing his task.

Accusations against, arrest, detention, or imprisonment of any member of Parliament may be made only with the consent of the Parliament or the Standing Committee of the Parliament during the parliamentary recess, except in the case of flagrant criminal offenses. In this latter case, the competent authorities shall immediately submit a report to the Parliament or the Standing Committee of the Parliament for decision.

The decision of the Parliament Standing Committee shall be submitted to the ensuing session of the Parliament for endorsement by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Parliament.

In all the above cases, the imprisonment of or accusations against a representative shall be suspended if the Parliament expresses its view that this should be so through a three-fourths majority vote of all members of the Parliament.

Article 81. The Parliament shall have an autonomous budget for its own operation.

The representatives shall be remunerated.

Article 82. The Parliament shall open its first session within 60 days after the election at the convocation of the king.

Before starting its work, the Parliament shall adopt its internal regulations, decide the validity of the mandate of each member, and hold separate elections of the chairman and vice chairmen of the Parliament and all members of various commissions of the Parliament with a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Parliament.

Before taking office, the representatives shall take an oath, the content of which is provided in Annex 5.

Article 83. The Parliament shall hold two ordinary sessions annually.

Each session shall last for at least three months. At the recommendation of the king or the request of the prime minister or of at least one-third of the members of the Parliament, the Standing Committee of the Parliament shall convoke an extraordinary session of the Parliament.

In this case, a specific agenda of the extraordinary session shall be announced to the public together with the date of the session.

Article 84. During the recess of the Parliament, the Standing Committee of the Parliament shall take charge of its affairs.

The Standing Committee of the Parliament shall consist of the chairman of the Parliament, the vice chairmen of the Parliament, and the chairmen of all commissions of the Parliament.

Article 85. The sessions of the Parliament shall be held in the capital city of the Kingdom of Cambodia inside the meeting hall of the Parliament, except when it is decided otherwise as necessitated by circumstances and notified in the convocation letters.

Except in the above case, any sessions of the Parliament held at sites and dates other than those notified in the convocation letters shall be considered illegal and null and void.

Article 86. In circumstances under which the nation is in a state of emergency, the Parliament shall meet regularly every day. The Parliament shall have the right to declare an end to the above special circumstances when the situation permits.

If Parliament cannot meet because of reason of necessity, notably when foreign forces are occupying the country, the declaration of the state of emergency shall extend automatically.

When the country is in a state of emergency, the Parliament may not be dissolved.

Article 87. The chairman of the Parliament shall conduct debates of the Parliament, take cognizance of laws and resolutions passed by the Parliament, guarantee the implementation of the Parliament's internal regulations, and manage all international contacts of the Parliament. In the case where the chairman of the Parliament is engaged, cannot fulfill his duty because of illness, is performing the role of acting head of state or regent, or is on mission abroad, a vice chairman of the Parliament shall discharge functions in his place.

In the case where the chairman or a vice chairman vacates his post or dies, the Parliament shall elect a new chairman or vice chairman.

Article 88. The sessions of the Parliament shall be held in public.

The Parliament may meet in secrecy at the request of the chairman or at least one-tenth of the members, of the king, or of the prime minister.

The sessions of the Parliament may be valid only when there is a quorum of seven-tenths of all members of the Parliament.

Article 89. At the request of at least one-tenth of the members, the Parliament may invite a high personality to enlighten the Parliament of any problem of special importance.

Article 90. The Parliament shall be the only organization that wields legislative power. The Parliament may not relegate this power to any other organization or individual.

The Parliament shall approve the national budget, the state plans, the state loans, the state grants, financial contracts, and the creation, amendment, or removal of taxes.

The Parliament shall approve the accounts of the government.

The Parliament shall approve the law on general amnesty.

The Parliament shall approve or abrogate international treaties or conventions.

The Parliament shall approve the law on the declaration of war.

The above approvals shall be made with the absolute majority vote of all members of Parliament.

Article 91. The representatives and the prime minister shall have the right to initiate laws.

The representatives shall have the right to recommend the amendment of laws but this recommendation may not be accepted if it is aimed at reducing public incomes or increasing burdens on the citizens.

Article 92. All endorsements made by the Parliament contrary to the principle of safeguarding the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia and detrimental to the political unity or administrative management of the country shall be considered null. The Constitutional Council shall be the only organization that has the competence to decide on this nullity.

Article 93. A law already passed by the Parliament and promulgated by the king shall go into effect in the capital city of Phnom Penh within exactly 10 days after its promulgation and throughout the country within exactly 20 days after its promulgation.

However, if this law is proclaimed to be urgent, it shall go into effect throughout the country immediately after its promulgation.

A law promulgated by the king shall be published in the royal gazette and disseminated throughout the country within the times specified above.

Article 94. The Parliament shall create commissions as necessary. The organization and operation of the Parliament shall be defined in the internal regulations of the Parliament.

Article 95. In the case where a member of the Parliament dies, resigns, or loses his membership at least six months before the end of the term, a by-election shall be organized to replace that member of the Parliament in line with the conditions set in the internal regulations of the Parliament and the electoral law.

Article 96. The representatives shall have the right to pose a question to the Royal Government. This question shall be presented in writing and submitted through the chairman of the Parliament.

The answer may be made by one or several ministers depending on whether the problem raised concerns the responsibilities of one minister or of several ministers. If

the problem concerns the overall policies of the government, the prime minister himself shall make the answer. The answer of the minister, ministers, or prime minister may be made verbally or in writing.

The above answer shall be made within seven days after the question was received.

In the case of a verbal answer, the chairman of the Parliament may decide to hold or not to hold an interpellation. If the interpellation is not called, the answer of the minister, ministers, or prime minister shall be final. If the interpellation is called, the initiator of the question, other speakers, and the minister or ministers involved or the prime minister may debate for a period of time not exceeding one sitting.

The Parliament shall set one day per week for answering questions.

Nevertheless, the above session for answering questions may not open up a possibility for voting of any kind.

Article 97. Commissions of the Parliament may invite ministers to clarify any question concerning their areas of responsibility.

Article 98. The Parliament may dismiss cabinet members or remove the Royal Government from office by passing a censure motion through a two-thirds majority vote of members of the entire Parliament.

Only the censure motion against the Royal Government submitted to the Parliament by 30 representatives may be raised for discussion by the Parliament.

CHAPTER 8—THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT

Article 99. The cabinet is the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The cabinet shall be led by a prime minister assisted by deputy prime ministers with state ministers, ministers, and state secretaries as members.

Article 100. At the recommendation of the chairman and with the agreement of the two vice chairmen of the Parliament, the king designates a dignitary from among the representatives of the people from the winning party to set up the royal government. This designated dignitary shall lead his colleagues who are members of the Parliament or members of parties represented in the Parliament who have been appointed in teams to various posts in the Royal Government to ask for a vote of confidence from the Parliament. After the Parliament has given its vote of confidence, the king shall issue a royal decree appointing the entire cabinet.

Before taking office, the cabinet shall take an oath as defined in Annex 6.

Article 101. The function of members of the Royal Government is incompatible with professional activities in trade or industry and with the holding of any position in the public service.

Article 102. Members of the Royal Government shall be collectively responsible to the Parliament for the overall policies of the Royal Government.

Each member of the Royal Government shall be individually responsible to the prime minister and the Parliament for his own conduct.

Article 103. Members of the Royal Government may not use the orders, written or verbal, of anyone as an excuse to exonerate themselves from their responsibility.

Article 104. The Cabinet shall meet every week, either in plenary session or in a study session.

The plenary session shall be conducted by the prime minister. The prime minister may assign a deputy prime minister to conduct a study session.

Minutes of all cabinet sessions shall be forwarded to the king for his information.

Article 105. The prime minister may delegate his powers to deputy prime ministers or any member of the Royal Government.

Article 106. If the post of prime minister is permanently vacated, a new cabinet shall be appointed under the conditions stipulated in this Constitution. If this vacancy is only temporary, an acting prime minister shall be temporarily appointed.

Article 107. Each member of the Royal Government shall be punished for any crimes or misdemeanors that he has committed in the course of his duty.

In such cases or when he has committed serious offenses in the course of his duty, the Parliament may decide to file charges against him with the competent court.

The Parliament shall decide on such matters through a secret vote with an absolute majority of the members of the entire Parliament.

Article 108. The organization and operation of the cabinet shall be defined by law.

CHAPTER 9—THE JUDICIAL POWER

Article 109. The judicial power shall be an independent power.

The judicial power shall guarantee and uphold impartiality and protect the rights and freedom of the citizens. The judicial power shall cover all lawsuits, including those of the government.

This power shall be handed over to the Supreme Court and adjudication courts of all sectors and levels.

Article 110. Trials and adjudications shall be conducted in the name of the Cambodian citizens in accordance with the legal procedures and the laws in effect.

Only judges shall have the right to adjudicate. A judge shall fulfill this duty with strict respect for the laws, wholeheartedly, and conscientiously.

Article 111. No organizations of the legislative or executive powers may handle any judicial power.

Article 112. Only the Department of Public Prosecution shall have the right to institute the prosecution of criminal cases.

Article 113. The king shall guarantee the independence of the judicial power.

The Supreme Council of the Magistracy shall assist the king in this matter.

Article 114. Judges may not be removed from duty. But the Supreme Council of the Magistracy may take disciplinary actions against any offending judges.

Article 115. The Supreme Council of the Magistracy shall be formed by an organizational law which will determine its composition and function.

The Supreme Council of the Magistracy shall be under the royal chairmanship of the king. The king may designate one royal representative to act as chairman of this Supreme Council of the Magistracy.

The Supreme Council of the Magistracy shall make suggestions to the King on the appointment of judges and prosecutors accredited to all courts.

The Supreme Council of the Magistracy, in taking disciplinary actions against judges and prosecutors, shall meet in the presence of the chairman of the Supreme Court or the chief prosecutor attached to the Supreme Court depending on whether the case is related to the judge or the prosecutor.

Article 116. The statutes of the judges and prosecutors and the organization of the judiciary shall be defined in separate laws.

CHAPTER 10—THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL

Article 117. The Constitutional Council's competence shall be to safeguard the respect for the Constitution and to interpret the Constitution and laws passed by the Parliament.

The Constitutional Council shall have the right to examine and settle disputes relating to the election of the members of Parliament.

Article 118. The Constitutional Council shall consist of nine members with a nine-year mandate. One-third of the members of the Constitutional Council shall be replaced every three years. Three members shall be appointed by the King; three elected by the Parliament; and three others appointed by the Supreme Council of the Magistracy.

The chairman shall be elected by the members of the Constitutional Council. The chairman's vote shall be preponderant in the case where votes are equally split.

Article 119. Members of the Constitutional Council shall be selected from among the dignitaries with at least a higher-education degree in law, administration, diplomacy, or economics, and who have considerable work experience.

Article 120. The function of a Constitutional Council member shall be incompatible with that of a member of the government, a member of the Parliament, the

chairman or vice chairman of a political party, the chairman or vice chairman of a trade union, and an active judge.

Article 121. The king, the prime minister, the Parliament chairman, or one-tenth of the members of the Parliament can forward bills to the Constitutional Council for examination before their promulgation.

The Parliament's internal regulations and various organizational laws shall be forwarded to the Constitutional Council for examination before their promulgation.

The Constitutional Council shall decide within no more than 30 days whether the above laws and internal regulations of the Parliament are constitutional or not.

Article 122. After a law is promulgated, the king, the prime minister, the Parliament chairman, one-tenth of the representatives, or the court may ask the Constitutional Council to examine the constitutionality of that law.

The citizens may appeal against the constitutionality of laws through their representatives or the chairman of Parliament as stipulated in the above paragraph.

Article 123. Provisions in any articles ruled by the Constitutional Council as unconstitutional may not be promulgated or implemented.

A decision by the Constitutional Council shall be incontestable.

Article 124. The king shall consult with the Constitutional Council on proposals to amend the Constitution.

Article 125. An organizational law shall define the organization and operation of the Constitutional Council.

CHAPTER 11—THE ADMINISTRATION

Article 126. The territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall be divided into provinces and municipalities.

Provinces shall be divided into districts and districts into khum.

Municipalities shall be divided into khan and khan into sangkat.

Article 127. Provinces, municipalities, districts, khan, khum, and sangkat shall be administered in accordance with conditions set in an organizational law.

CHAPTER 12—NATIONAL CONGRESS

Article 128. The National Congress shall enable the people to be directly informed on various matters of national interests and to raise issues and requests for the state authority to solve.

Cambodian citizens of either sex shall have the right to participate in the National Congress.

Article 129. The National Congress shall meet once a year in early December at the convocation of the prime minister.

The National Congress shall proceed under the chairmanship of the king.

Article 130. The National Congress shall adopt requests for consideration by the state authorities and the Parliament.

The organization and operation of the National Congress shall be defined by a law.

CHAPTER 13—EFFECT, REVISION, AND AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 131. This Constitution shall be the supreme law of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

All laws and decisions by various state institutions shall absolutely conform with the Constitution.

Article 132. The initiative to revise or to amend the Constitution shall be the prerogative of the king, the prime minister, and the chairman of the Parliament at the suggestion of one-fourth of all members of Parliament.

The revision or amendments of the Constitution shall be effected by a constitutional law passed by the Parliament with a two-thirds majority of all members of Parliament.

Article 133. The revision or amendments of the Constitution shall be prohibited while the country is in the state of emergency as defined in Article 86.

Article 134. The revision or amendments of the Constitution may not be effected if they affect the multiparty liberal democratic system and the constitutional monarchism. [This article is not contained in the Cambodian version of the Constitution carried by Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian on at 2300 GMT on 5 October]

CHAPTER 14—TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 135. After this Constitution is adopted, it shall be declared in force immediately by the head of state of Cambodia. [In the version carried by Phnom Penh radio on 5 October at 2300 GMT, this article reads: "Article 135. After this Constitution is adopted, it shall be promulgated by the head of state of Cambodia."]

Article 136. Once this Constitution takes effect the Constituent Assembly shall become the Parliament.

The internal regulations of the Parliament shall take effect after being adopted by the Parliament.

In the case where the Parliament is not yet functional, the chairman, first vice chairman, and second vice chairman of the Constitution Assembly shall participate in the discharge of duties in the Throne Council if required by the situation in the country. [The preceding paragraph is not contained in the Phnom Penh radio version broadcast at 2300 GMT on 5 October]

Article 137. After this Constitution takes effect, the king shall be selected in accordance with conditions stipulated in Articles 13 and 14.

Article 138. After this Constitution takes effect and during the first legislature, the king of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall appoint a first prime minister and a second prime minister to form the Royal Government

after securing the consent of the chairman and two vice chairmen of the Parliament.

The co-prime ministers existing before [Phnom Penh radio version omits preceding word "before"] the adoption of this Constitution shall become members of the committee [as published] and the Throne Council stipulated in Articles 11 [as published] and 13 above.

Article 139. Laws and standard documents in Cambodia that safeguard state properties, rights and freedom, [the Phnom Penh radio version of this article broadcast at 2300 GMT on 5 October contains the word "life" after "rights, and freedom"] and an individual's lawful properties that are in conformity with national interests shall continue to be effective until altered or abrogated by new texts, except those provisions that are contrary to the spirit of this Constitution.

This Constitution was adopted by the Constitution Assembly in Phnom Penh on 21 September 1993 at its second plenary session.

Phnom Penh, 21 September 1993

Chairman, Son Sann

Radio Welcomes New Thai Stand on Khmer Rouge

BK1610152593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Unattributed "article": "Thailand Displays a Clearer Stand on the Khmer Rouge Issue"]

[Text] Recently, Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, supreme commander of the Thai Armed Forces, said Thailand would not recognize the Khmer Rouge, which has been outlawed by Phnom Penh as Cambodia now has a new government, adding that Thailand should recognize the government that has been established legally and would not recognize anyone who does not join that government.

At the same time, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said that he would meet the Cambodian leaders in New York so as to discuss the repeated misunderstanding reported by Cambodian newspapers regarding Thailand's involvement with the Khmer Rouge.

These developments testify to Thailand's new endeavors to demonstrate its ever clearer position with regard to the Khmer Rouge.

His Excellency Hun Sen has said that any foreign support for the Khmer Rouge constitutes a violation of the Kingdom of Cambodia's sovereignty. Prasong will soon visit Phnom Penh to discuss his so-called resolution of any misunderstanding toward Thailand.

Khmer Rouge Rejects Charges of Thai Assistance

BK1510020493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Oct 93

["Denial of the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea concerning accusations that Thailand has given this and that assistance to Democratic Kampuchea"; dated 14 October; read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Lately, the propaganda machines of the Vietnamese communists, their puppets, and their allies have accused Thailand repeatedly of colluding with the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK]. They even accused Thailand of giving tanks and anti-aircraft guns to the NADK.

2. The spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] categorically rejects all these groundless slanderous accusations.

3. The national and international public are well aware of the true nature of the Vietnamese communists, their puppets, and their allies, and that their propaganda is aimed at covering up the shameful defeats revealed in the military operations that they have boisterously boasted about for the past several weeks.

4. These accusations are made to conceal the activities of the allies, who are continuing to kindle the flames of the Vietnamese communists' war of aggression in Cambodia by giving money to the Vietnamese puppet army for launching military campaigns and hiring troops, assisting them in transportation work, and providing them with equipment. They are particularly guilty of joining with the Vietnamese communists in preparing war plans for the current rainy season, which is drawing to a close, and for the coming dry season in an attempt to smash the people, national resistance forces, and NADK. They must immediately end this criminal activity and stop interfering in Cambodian problems.

5. The Cambodian problem must be resolved through the national reconciliation policy of King Norodom Sihanouk and the two-point PDK proposal which has emanated from the king's viewpoint.

The national reconciliation forces are gaining great momentum and strength. Nothing can deter these national reconciliation forces.

[Dated] 14 October 1993

[Signed] The PDK spokesman

Indonesia

Israel's Rabin Arrives for 'Lightning Visit'

TA1510101393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin paid a lightning visit in Indonesia and conferred with President Suharto.

From Indonesia the prime minister flew to Singapore, where he will spend the Sabbath and then continue to Israel.

The editor of THE JAKARTA POST told our correspondent Gidon Remez that the visit was a surprise and that Indonesia did not issue any official communique. He pointed out that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat visited Indonesia two weeks ago and heard President Suharto's enthusiastic support for the agreement of principles between Israel and the Palestinians.

Suharto, Rabin Discusses Mideast

BK1510122093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Unexpectedly, President Suharto received a courtesy call from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at his Cendana Road residence after performing Friday prayers this afternoon. The courtesy call lasted about one hour and was described by Minister/State Secretary Murdiono as a meeting between two statesmen with great wisdom and deep insight. Murdiono stressed that they had discussed peace efforts in the Middle East. As for the establishment of diplomatic relations, Murdiono said Indonesia is not in a hurry to do it.

Minister Provides Details

BK1510134593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Listeners! President Suharto received a courtesy call from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at his Cendana Road residence this afternoon. The following is Minister/State Secretary Murdiono's press briefing at his office about two hours ago.

[Begin Murdiono recording] Ladies and gentlemen! After performing his Friday prayers today, the president received a courtesy call from His Excellency Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The meeting was held at the Cendana Road presidential residence in Jakarta.

Some time ago, the Israeli Government made a request to the Indonesian Government that its prime minister meet President Suharto. The request was then carefully considered by relevant government agencies and, finally, the president decided to meet the Israeli prime minister.

We believe that the Israeli prime minister's request was based more on President Suharto's capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. As for the meeting protocol jointly agreed upon by the two sides, the Israeli prime minister was scheduled to arrive in Jakarta, meet the president at the Cendana Road presidential residence, immediately depart for Halim Perdanakusumah Airport after the meeting, and then leave the country.

The meeting was attended by the Israeli prime minister and a high-ranking official as well as President Suharto

and myself. As the Israeli foreign minister was not in the delegation, the Indonesian foreign minister was not present during the meeting.

The reason President Suharto decided to meet Mr. Rabin is because the Nonaligned Movement wishes to promote global peace. As I told you earlier when we discussed the president's reactions to the Middle East peace process, including mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, the president described the peace accord as a breakthrough in the efforts to solve the Palestine issue, which will lead to the establishment of an independent, sovereign, and self-ruled state of Palestine in its own homeland. The president also expressed hope that a settlement to the Palestine issue will be part of the overall solution to the Middle East problem. In addition, the president also follows the preamble of our Constitution which stipulates that we should take part in promoting global peace based on freedom and social justice. These are the reasons why the president has decided to meet the Israeli prime minister.

Besides, the president once instructed my colleague, namely Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, to convene a meeting of the Committee on Palestine, with a view to studying existing problems and what steps the Non-aligned Movement can take following the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

During the meeting, President Suharto reiterated Indonesia's stand on the ongoing peace process in the Middle East and stressed the importance of implementing what has been agreed by the two sides. At the same time, the Israeli prime minister explained the ongoing peace process from the Madrid meeting up to the recent meeting between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. The Israeli prime minister hoped that the peace process will be given a chance to succeed, and for that reason, support and understanding from the international community are needed. [end recording]

Listeners! Mardiono held this press briefing in the presence of Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Nana Sutresna, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement's Executive Board.

Stance Against Ties Reaffirmed

*BK1810125193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Indonesia's stance not to establish relations with Israel is principled and not based on emotional and former considerations. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said in Jakarta today that Indonesia will consistently support the demand by Arab countries that Israel relinquish territories it is occupying illegally. He dismissed as untrue reports that Indonesia is establishing relations with Israel.

According to Minister Ali Alatas, Indonesia has consistently supported the struggle of Arab countries and

Palestine and has never had any diplomatic or commercial relations with Israel. The minister said Indonesia consistently says that the Israeli-PLO agreement must be regarded as a preliminary step. Thus, Indonesia will firmly disagree if Israel considers the agreement as final.

Alatas Denies Receiving Israeli Military Aid

*BK1810081593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Text] Indonesia has never received arms or military training from Israel because it has not yet established diplomatic relations with that country. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this to reporters at a seminar on the role of big powers in the South Pacific organized by the Indonesian Science Institute this morning. He said problems between Israel and the PLO should in principle be settled in a comprehensive manner and the Israeli prime minister's recent call on President Suharto would not necessarily lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Israel.

Touching on the South Pacific, Minister Ali Alatas said the South Pacific is not only a region with good prospects for Indonesia but it could also become a source of potential threat to national security and stability. Accordingly, Indonesia's good relations with South Pacific countries, particularly Papua New Guinea have had positive effects on Indonesian-Australian relations. Thus, the development of Indonesia's relations with the South Pacific is inseparable and will affect Indonesian-Australian relations.

Muslim Leader Says 'No Need' for Israel Ties

*BK1710075793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 17 Oct 93*

[Text] Kiai Haji Hassan Basri, general chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council, is of the opinion that there is no need for Indonesia to establish diplomatic relations with Israel now and the visit by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to meet President Suharto was not an indication toward this end. Speaking in Yogyakarta, Kiai Haji Hassan Basri was of the opinion that it is not yet time to establish diplomatic relations with Israel because they would bring no benefit to Indonesia. Indonesia does not recognize the State of Israel and has no diplomatic relations with that country.

According to Kiai Haji Hassan Basri, what is now important is how Indonesia and President Suharto, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, can positively contribute to the realization of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. In addition, Indonesia should support Yasir 'Arafat's efforts to establish his government in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan River.

Six Killed by East Timor 'Terrorists' in Sep

BK1210100393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] East Timor terrorists killed six residents at the end of September. A press release by the Information Center of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia said today that residents of Osoala village, Velilale Subdistrict, Baucau District frequently go hunting for boar and deer in the jungle. Thirty residents went hunting in several groups at the end of September when one of the group was ambushed and brutally killed by the terrorists. The incident angered the local residents, but they were still able to exercise self-restraint. Government and military officials provided families of the victims with aid ranging from funeral services to burial costs.

Thailand

Raids Find Evidence of Workers Sent to Libya

BK1610015693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Oct 93 p A1

[Text] Thai authorities have found evidence that two Thai job agencies were involved in sending workers to sites in Libya suspected of producing chemical weapons, Deputy Labour Minister Phaitun Kaeothong said yesterday.

The Thai government, meanwhile, has set aside Bt200 million for the possible emergency evacuation of some 25,000 Thai workers in the North African country which is facing threats of air strikes by the United States. Phaitun said raids on the W & M Associates Co and the Handle Group Co uncovered evidence that Thai workers sent by the two firms to Libya were working at sites suspected of producing chemical weapons. It was the first time Thai authorities have acknowledged Thai workers' involvement in Libya's alleged chemical arms industry. The United States is known to have repeatedly informed Bangkok that about 200 Thais were working in suspected chemical weapons plants in the Arab country.

Phaitun's statements followed the arrest on Thursday of Wirot Sakunmuthita whose W & M Associates firm has a contract to build "shelters" for the Libyans. Phaitun said W & M Associates and Handle Group were among three Thai job agencies blacklisted by the United States. The third firm, SCP Suppachok Co, has had its license revoked by the Thai government, the deputy minister said.

The crackdown on the job agencies came amid growing tension as Libya has refused to bow to Washington-led Western efforts to extradite from Libya suspects charged with planting a bomb on a Pan Am airliner which blew up over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988.

The Labour Ministry's spokesman New Aspiration MP Suraphong Danaitangtrakun, said the Thai government is increasingly concerned about mounting US pressure

for Libya to hand over the two suspects. He noted that Washington and France have been pushing for oil and monetary embargoes against Tripoli. A UN decision on the sanction request is due today.

Previously the United Nations, acting on proposals by the United States, France and Britain, imposed sanctions on aviation, diplomacy and arms trade against Libya.

The spokesman said the Labour Ministry had asked the Thai labour counsellor attached to the Thai Embassy in Greece to keep in touch with Thai workers in Libya where there is no Thai embassy. The labour counsellor in Greece had prepared three measures to bring Thai workers to safe places. The three measures are:

- remove Thai workers from Rabta city, a likely target for any US attack, to safe places;
- resettle Thai workers to nearby countries;
- repatriate Thai workers if their security in Libya is seriously threatened.

"We have set aside Bt200 million for the purpose," Suraphong said. He added that in case of a mass evacuation, the job agencies responsible for sending the workers there would be asked to share travel expenses.

Meanwhile, Wirot told reporters after his arrest that he was not aware that shelters built in Libya under a contract with his firm would be involved in the production of chemical weapons.

"My clients say they are war shelters. But the CIA says they are weapons production centres. Who should I believe?" he said.

The businessman, 38, also denied he had sent Thai workers to Libya without official permission. He said some 60 Thais were working for him in Libya but they had been sent there by other companies.

Company Owner Plans To Give Up Libyan Contract

BK1610023293 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] Chiang Mai—The owner of a Thai construction company which is building a suspected underground chemical weapons plant in Libya yesterday said he was considering abandoning the project. Wirot Sakunmuthita, 38, of W&M Company, also asked that the Government introduce a clear cut policy on the export of Thai labour.

W&M Company was contracted by the Libyan Government to build an underground shelter which American intelligence suspects will be used to produce chemical weapons. Mr Wirot was arrested at his W&M Company offices in Muang on Thursday night and charged with sending Thai workers abroad without permission. He was questioned by Crime Suppression Division Commander Maj-Gen Luan Panrotthip and later released on

400,000 baht bail. Mr Wirot denied the charge claiming the legal action against him had been influenced by the United States.

The employment agency owner said he did not know how much compensation he would have to pay the Libyan Government if he abandoned the project without due warning. He also said he was sure a Korean company would take over the project using Thai workers to finish the job. Mr Wirot said his company had been contracted to build an underground shelter only and he saw nothing wrong with this. He said the only thing he had seen from the Labour and Social Welfare Ministry was an order prohibiting Thai workers from working at nuclear and arms production plants.

The building of underground shelters is honest work and it was not his concern how the Libyan Government uses the facility. Mr Wirot said he was surprised Thailand had to bow to US demands since he was not an American citizen. He admitted he was not fully versed in labour law, but knew there were between 25,000 and 35,000 Thai workers in Libya, only 15,000 of which went through proper channels with the permission of labour authorities.

"This means there are loopholes in the labour law which allow a large number of workers to leave the country illegally to work in Libya," he said. Government agencies should look into this problem and find a solution.

Chiang Mai police yesterday questioned Mr Wirot's driver, Bunma Chaisi, 46, in connection with the case. Mr Bunma was quoted as telling police he had earlier been sent to work on the shelter in Libya by a company associated with Mr Wirot's firm. He said he had seen Mr Wirot in Libya every two months when he went to inspect the work there.

Police claimed they had sufficient evidence to take legal action against Mr Wirot. They said he is a shareholder in three job placement agencies—W&M, Win Man and Win Trade. Police said they are looking for other witnesses among 120 workers returned from Libya.

Further on Visit by Vietnamese Party Secretary

Chuan, Do Muoi Agree To Expand Ties

*BK1610022093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
16 Oct 93 p 1*

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Vietnamese Communist Party chief Do Muoi yesterday agreed to expand ties between the two countries with the view to strengthening Southeast Asia in response to increased competition worldwide. Do Muoi arrived in Bangkok yesterday for four-day official visit as guest of Mr Chuan, the first to Thailand by the most senior leader of Vietnam's communist party. The two leaders spoke for about an hour yesterday morning, focusing on bilateral issues such as the naturalisation of 40,000 Vietnamese living in Thailand.

Do Muoi urged Thailand to speed up the process. About 5,000 Vietnamese residents have been naturalised since March last year when the Thai Cabinet endorsed Thai citizenship for those meeting requirements.

Mr Chuan told his 76-year-old guest Thailand regarded Vietnam not only as a neighbour but as kin sharing cultural similarities. Therefore, ties should be promoted, according to Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa.

The two countries, hostile neighbours throughout the Cold War until the Cambodian problem was settled in October 1991, will let contentious issues such as overlapping claims in the Gulf of Thailand and differences over the use of the Mekong River be resolved through existing mechanisms. Domestic political turmoil in Thailand such as the uprising in May last year brought efforts to resolve these issues to a standstill after they began only late in 1991.

"The Thai Government believes strongly that friendly Thai-Vietnamese relations are vital to Southeast Asia," Mr Chuan said at a dinner hosted for Do Muoi at Government House last night.

His official visits to Thailand and to Singapore earlier this month "reflect the sincere determination of Vietnam to participate in regional efforts to foster cooperation and to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia", said the Premier.

Mr Chuan said he hoped Vietnam's participation in the first ASEAN Regional Forum to be held in Thailand next year would contribute significantly to the security of the Asia-Pacific region. Vietnam is an observer to ASEAN but has said it plans to become a full member at an appropriate time.

Do Muoi took the chance of the dinner speech to repeat Vietnam's position of using peaceful negotiations to settle territorial disputes in the South China Sea, which Vietnam calls the East Sea. The areas involve competing claims by Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei. Mr Chuan also accepted Do Muoi's invitation to visit Vietnam at some future date.

The Vietnamese chief called on Thai businessmen to become involved more actively in Vietnam.

Do Muoi, speaking at a luncheon hosted jointly by members of the Federation of Thai Industries Thai Bankers' Association and Board of Trade said the Thai private sector played an instrumental role in building ties but noted that Thai trade and investment in Vietnam had not yet reached maximum potential.

"I can confirm that Vietnam's reforms towards a market economy will continue, and we are trying to build an environment that is more convenient for foreign investors," he told the audience, among them former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, Bangkok Bank chairman Chatri Sophonphanit and former Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon.

After meeting Vietnamese residents in Thailand at the Vietnamese embassy, Do Muoi toured the Stock Exchange of Thailand where he made extensive inquiries. Vietnam is planning to set up a stock market in Ho Chi Minh City. He will be granted an audience today with His Majesty the King in Narathiwat and tomorrow will visit the Erawan natural gas field, off the Songkhla coast, operated by US-based Unocal.

Do Muoi's delegation includes Politbureau member Le Phuoc Tho Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and central committee members.

Foreign Minister Cam held hour-long talks yesterday afternoon with his Thai counterpart, Prasong Sunsiri, on a range of topics including fisheries, the Mekong River, aviation and the naturalisation of ethnic Vietnamese in Thailand.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said afterwards Mr Cam "agreed" with the idea of appointing a working group to resolve fisheries disputes. He also suggested that Cambodia be involved in future discussions between Thailand and Vietnam on overlapping territorial waters claims.

"We should wait for the new Cambodian government to join us for talks on this matter. But at the same time, Thailand and Vietnam should continue the existing dialogue," he said.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said he would propose this to the Cambodian government when he visited Phnom Penh later this year.

Spokesman Cited on Talks

BK1510131793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Recorded statement by Aphisit Wetchachiwa, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office, reporting on the meeting between Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at Government House in Bangkok]

[Text] The two sides noted an extensive expansion of bilateral relations and believe that the current visit will further strengthen relations. The general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] briefed Thailand on the history of Vietnam's struggle and national development. He stressed that Vietnam is undergoing economic reconstruction as a result of the impact from the long war. There are certain limitations which Vietnam is suffering from, such as its lack of experience in economic management. During his current visit, the CPV general secretary will observe Thailand's process in national development, particularly economic development, in which Thailand has achieved considerable success.

The CPV general secretary said that stability in politics and foreign affairs is fundamental for Vietnam's economic development. Vietnam has thus adopted an open policy and supports regional cooperation—his visit is

part of a tour of ASEAN countries. He would like to see close cooperation among nations in this region.

On bilateral relations, the Thai prime minister and the CPV general secretary raised for discussion the issues of common concern of both countries. They included the issue of Vietnamese refugees who have lived in Thailand for a lengthy period, the overlapping maritime border, fishing cooperation, and cooperation among the Mekong riparian countries. They did not go into details of those issues, but only noted progress made in settling some problems. The prime minister, for instance, told the visitor that over the past two years Thailand has granted Thai citizenship to nearly 5,000 Vietnamese refugees. Also, the cabinet has approved opening a Vietnamese consulate in Khon Kaen Province. As for fishing cooperation, the problem of the overlapping maritime border, and cooperation under the Mekong River basin development program, there are committees in charge as well as state mechanisms and authorities to follow up on the implementation of these matters. As for Thailand's policy, it supports cooperation in all aspects based on the belief that no country can achieve development alone while its neighbors still have problems to overcome. Thailand, therefore, adopted a clear-cut policy on assistance for Indochinese countries. Thailand has provided various programs of cooperation and training for those countries, and will continue them consistently.

Do Muoi Addresses Embassy Staff

BK1610024093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] Vietnamese Communist Party chief Do Muoi yesterday told naturalised Vietnamese in Thailand to fulfill their duty toward the kingdom as "law-abiding citizens". Do Muoi gave a lively 30 minute talk at the embassy compound on Wireless Road to about 200 Vietnamese residents, embassy staff and Vietnamese nationals studying in Bangkok.

Watching over the session was the flower-bedecked bust of national hero Ho Chi Minh, who spent a brief time in northeast Thailand in 1928 preparing the independence struggle against the French.

"Our relations with Thailand are improving day by day. Today, I myself and our delegation are here to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two countries," said Do Muoi to loud applause. "We were moved deeply when the Thai Prime Minister said Thailand and Vietnam were more than just neighbours—we're kin. This welcome from Thai friends is very solemn."

Do Muoi told the crowd the issue of naturalisation for long-time ethnic Vietnamese residents in Thailand was a major concern to Hanoi authorities and he would report on the outcome of this matter to his people at home.

"We thank Thailand for giving citizenship to the overseas Vietnamese and we wish the kingdom will continue the process.

"Once naturalised, you will have to fulfil the duty of law-abiding citizens to which you are obliged."

The two front rows of seats at the meeting room were occupied by ethnic Vietnamese of the same generation as the 76-year-old leader. Do Muoi chose to stand, speaking in the middle of the hall where he could make vigorous gestures, instead of taking the seat prepared for him at the VIP table. He said the establishment of a Vietnamese consulate in the northeastern province of Khon Kaen, recently approved by the Thai Government, would help the naturalisation of Vietnamese as well as further cooperation.

He then took the audience on a journey home, telling them what Vietnam is like these days.

"We are undertaking reforms. The younger generation enjoy better health and education. But we are still very poor and have problems with roads, electricity and water supply, old sea ports and airports. But we are rebuilding them."

Do Muoi told the audience the Communist Party was preparing a mid-term review of the Seventh Party Congress to look at achievements and flaws over the last 30 months and to chart the course for the next 30 months before the next congress. Called the National Conference, the mid-term review, the first of its kind, is slated for late January.

Prime Minister Hosts Party

BK1610031393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai hosted a dinner in honor of Do Moui, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at the government house last night. In his dinner speech, Prime Minister Chuan praised the Vietnamese Government for its achievements in national development during the past. He said that the prosperity of Vietnam will be beneficial to the Southeast Asian region as a whole. The prime minister said that the Thai Government is willing to cooperate with Vietnam in developing the Indochinese region, especially in the development of human resources, economic, trade, and communications network.

Prasong Meets SRV Counterpart

BK1610150193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Speaking to reporters about his meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart yesterday, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said several topics were discussed, including problems regarding fishing disputes, overlapping territorial waters, the presence of Vietnamese refugees in Thailand, the right to fly into

Thai airspace by Vietnamese airliners, and Mekong River basin development projects. Prasong said he had discussed with his Vietnamese counterpart establishing a body representing the respective agencies concerned to settle fishing disputes under the supervision of the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

Prasong conveyed to the Vietnamese foreign minister the complaints by Thai investors who went to invest in Vietnam about the bureaucratic procedures there and the regulations and delays on the part of the Vietnamese authorities. Such obstacles must be eliminated quickly, otherwise no foreign investors would want to invest in that country. The Vietnamese foreign minister agreed that corrective action must be taken.

Do Muoi Meets With King

BK1710004293 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 17 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] His Majesty the King and Vietnam's Communist Party Chief Do Muoi talked about friendship, cooperation and development for more than an hour at the Taksin Palace in Narathiwat yesterday, the first such meeting in the history of relations between the countries.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai took Mr Do Muoi, on the second day of his official visit, for an audience with His Majesty. Four other senior Communist Party members present were politburo member in charge of organisations and agriculture Le Phuoc Tho, the party's external relations chief Hong Ha, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

"It was an excellent meeting," Mr Cam told the BANGKOK POST in Hat Yai, where the delegation stayed overnight preparing for a trip to the Erawan gas field this morning.

Party Secretary-General Do Muoi invited His Majesty to visit Vietnam, and His Majesty thanked him for receiving His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon who visited Vietnam last November and this February respectively. Mr Cam said the two leaders discussed bilateral ties and cooperation.

This morning Mr Do Muoi will tour the Erawan complex off the Songkhla coast.

Vietnam is planning to develop offshore natural gas as well as processing and relating facilities on its southern coast off Baria-Vung Tau province.

The Erawan gas field is operated by U.S.-based Unocal, which is interested in Vietnam's attractive oil and gas sector but cannot start investment there until the U.S. embargo on Vietnam is lifted. Discovered in 1973, the Erawan field began production in 1981 and is one of seven currently producing sites.

Mr Do Muoi will be touring gas processing, compressor and production platforms, all within the Erawan complex, about an hour by helicopter from the shore, according to Dr Woraphat Athayukti, Unocal Thailand's director of public affairs.

Mr Do Muoi will travel to Chiang Mai this afternoon and will visit the Development Study Centre of the Royal Projects at Huay Hong Krai tomorrow morning before returning to Hanoi in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Saha Union Co Ltd chairman Anan Panyarachun said yesterday that the firm plans to invest in Vietnam soon. The investments would focus on four manufacturing projects including thread, buttons, zippers and footwear, he said.

"Details are under study and have not yet been negotiated with Vietnamese authorities but we will definitely invest there," the former prime minister said. He revealed the plan in his welcoming address to Vietnam Communist Party chief Do Muoi and his delegation who toured the company's Vinus thread and Nike and Reebok footwear factories in Bangpakong yesterday. The production site on 88 hectares comprises several plants and is among the company's five industrial estates. Do Muoi, 76, walked through the factories and asked questions about the production processes. He stopped to talk with some women workers who welcomed him.

NSC Chief Reaffirms Noninterference in Cambodia

BK1810064493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Thailand reaffirms her policy of not interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs. Secretary General of the National Security Council [NSC] General Charan Kunlawanit responded to a rumor saying that Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen might tell the United Nations on the alleged Thailand's aid to the Khmer Rouge. General Charan said Thailand has helped Cambodia in the peace process in that country for over 10 years and will never want to hinder the peace process that it has restored. He said Thailand is also a UN member and has good relationship with Cambodia. Thailand has also supported general election in that country and recognized the Cambodian elected government with two prime ministers. General Charan also said Thailand and Cambodia discussed the problem and boosted better understanding during a visit to Thailand by the two Cambodian prime ministers—Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen—in August this year. General Charan warned the media to be more cautious in presenting news reports on the rumor as this can build up misunderstanding.

Entry Into Cambodia Through Poipet Prohibited

BK1410133793 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has given the following instructions on travel to Cambodia as it appears that people are still confused about regulations concerning border crossings between Khlong Luk and Poipet.

Normally, Thai people holding border permits can enter Cambodia via the Poipet market and can even travel deeper into Cambodia if they have the proper authorization from Cambodian authorities at the Poipet immigration checkpoint. As there has been no agreement between the Thai and Cambodian Governments on opening permanent border checkpoints, travel into Cambodia through the Khlong Luk-Poipet border pass is therefore illegal.

Those desiring to make a trip to Battambang will therefore have to travel by the proper route i.e. by flying from the Bangkok international airport to Phnom Penh, and then travelling by domestic airlines from Phnom Penh to Battambang. There are flights from Phnom Penh to Battambang every Monday and Saturday at 1130. A Phnom Penh-Battambang-Phnom Penh ticket costs U.S.\$90. Visitors can seek information about entry visas into Cambodia from the airlines with flights to Phnom Penh.

Ambassador to PRC Reportedly Removed

BK1510050793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Oct 93 p A2

[Text] In a surprise move, the Foreign Ministry has ordered the Thai Ambassador to Beijing, Montri Chali- chan, who has at least a year left in the post, to be transferred to Greece, according to a source. The transfer has been approved by Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Pracha Khunakasem, the source said. It follows an official visit to China by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai from Sept 27-Oct 3.

While Chuan was in Beijing it was reported he was annoyed by Montri's criticism of Thai MPs for their alleged involvement in smuggling activities. However, it was unclear whether the transfer was a direct outcome of Montri's comments.

Montri has served as ambassador in Beijing for about three years and has about two years before he reaches mandatory retirement age.

"To transfer Montri from China to Greece would be downgrading him and would damage his diplomatic career and long-term reputation," the same source said.

The transfer will take about four months. This means Montri will serve only a year and a half in his new assignment. It is not normal practice to transfer an envoy nearing mandatory retirement. In such circumstances,

the new host country could be reluctant to fully accept an ambassador who has just one and a half years to serve out his term, the source said.

Prasong Denies Report

BK1510140893 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunseri has denied a news report on the transfer of Thai ambassador to Beijing Montri Chalichan. The report says that the transfer was ordered because the Ambassador reported to the prime minister publicly during a reception in China that some Thai MP's were involved in sea smuggling activities between Thailand and China. The foreign minister says:

[Begin Prasong recording] This is a sensitive issue. An appointment of a ambassador is confidential and it cannot be made public until the appointment has got the approval of the government of that country. This is the practice of every country based on diplomatic etiquette. There has been no order on it. [end recording]

PRC Minister Expresses Interest in Ventures

BK1210112993 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 12 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] Industry Minister Major General Sanan Khachonprasat received visiting Chinese Chemical Industry Minister Gu Xiulian at the Industry Ministry yesterday morning. After the meeting, Sanan told reporters that during the talks the Chinese minister expressed Chinese entrepreneurs' interest in investing in Thailand, especially in the rubber business. The Chinese minister said that many industries in China need rubber as material. Although China plants rubber, its output still cannot meet demand and the quality is inferior.

Minister Gu told Sanan that it will be an area of Sino-Thai trade cooperation if the two countries can enter joint ventures for rubber production.

Industry Minister Sanan said that the Chinese side also invited Thai businessmen to invest in the chemical industry in China. The Industry Ministry will discuss with other relevant agencies about the possibility of such investment.

Deputy Labor Minister Meets PRC Minister

BK1510121593 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 15 Oct 93 p 7

[Text] Chinese Civil Affairs Minister Doje Cering and his delegation called on Soemsak Karun, deputy labor and social welfare minister, yesterday morning. After the meeting, Soemsak told reporters that the Chinese civil affairs minister is on an official observation visit to Thailand.

The Chinese minister and his entourage arrived in Bangkok on 13 October and will depart on 21 October.

During their visit, the delegation will observe the operation of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry to strengthen the friendly relations between Thailand and China. They will also visit the Public Welfare Department, the Social Insurance Office, and other agencies.

Soemsak also said that the Chinese civil affairs minister invited him to visit Thai workers in China.

Vietnam

Further on Do Muoi's Visit to Thailand

Thai Prime Minister Hosts Dinner

BK1610044093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report by Dao Nguyen]

[Summary] Dear friends: On the afternoon of 15 October, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage visited the Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand. He was welcomed by the embassy staff and representatives of Vietnamese residents from 19 provinces and cities in Thailand.

"Addressing the embassy staff and representatives of Vietnamese nationals and students, Comrade Do Muoi pointed out that the party and the state always regard Vietnamese nationals as the descendants of the country and feel warmly toward them. The comrade hailed the Vietnamese nationals for their active contributions to the cause of national construction and defense and for having satisfactorily complied with Thai laws, thus helping foster the fraternal friendship between the two nations of Vietnam and Thailand.

"The comrade general secretary pointed out those issues that Vietnam and Thailand are continuing to solve so the compatriots can enjoy the rights and duty as Thai citizens and those regulations governing representatives. After that the comrade general secretary talked about the results obtained from the renovation process at home."

Also on the afternoon of 15 October, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi visited the Stock Exchange of Thailand. He was welcomed there by the president of the administrative council of the Stock Exchange of Thailand who gave him a briefing on the operations of the Stock Exchange of Thailand since 1974, saying that the Stock Exchange of Thailand now has an operating fund of over \$70 billion. "The president of the Stock Exchange of Thailand said he and his associates would go to Vietnam to exchange views with the Vietnamese banking sector over the stock market issue."

On the same afternoon, General Secretary Do Muoi toured the Grand Palace. This is a renowned tourist attraction in Bangkok that receives some 6,000 visitors each day.

"After being briefed on the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, General Secretary Do Muoi murmured the following prayer to Lord Buddha: May Lord Buddha bless the peoples of Thailand and Vietnam with rapid prosperity so they can make their countries prosperous and powerful and their societies modern. May the solidarity and friendship between the two nations constantly develop and last forever."

On the evening of 15 October, His Excellency Chuan Likphai hosted a grand banquet at the government house called Santi Maitri in honor of General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage. The comrade general secretary was greeted by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and guided into the Blue Room where the two leaders exchanged gifts. The comrade general secretary was then led to the Golden Room for the banquet.

In his welcoming speech at the banquet, "Prime Minister Chuan Liphai said: It is my great pleasure to welcome His Excellency and the SRV delegation here. This official visit to Thailand of Your Excellency General Secretary Do Muoi reflected the growing friendly relationship between Thailand and Vietnam. This relationship has been strengthened with firm determination and constant efforts of our two governments and peoples. This is to further enhance our mutual trust, using this as a firm foundation for the lasting friendship between Vietnam and Thailand. With such close relationship, our two countries can further promote our effective cooperation in various domains and can facilitate efforts to clear those potential obstacles in the Vietnamese-Thai relations. Your Excellency's visit to Thailand is of great significance. Not only is it an important event in the history of Thai-Vietnamese relations but it is also a justification to the Thai Government's policy of promoting friendly relations with all nations.

"On this occasion, I also would like to ask Your Excellency to convey to the people and Government of Vietnam my profound gratitude for the warm welcome and the hospitality that you, friends, have reserved for Prince Maha Wachiralongkon during his visit to Vietnam in November 1992 and for Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon during her visit to Vietnam in February 1993.

"The Thai Government is firmly convinced that the Thai-Vietnamese relationship is important and vital to Southeast Asia. This is because this relationship will help bring about cooperation, prosperity, and stability for the entire region as a whole.

"I am very happy to learn about achievements scored by Vietnam in its renovation process, and I welcome these achievements. I note with pleasure that Thailand has played a constructive role that may have contributed to these achievements of Vietnam.

"During Your Excellency's stay in Thailand, it is our honor to present to Your Excellency a number of experiences in national development and in the employment of appropriate technologies in various development projects.

"Dear Your Excellency General Secretary Do Muoi and other distinguished guests, besides our bilateral relationship, I believe that Your Excellency's official visit to Thailand and your trip to other ASEAN countries have reflected Vietnam's real determination to participate in regional efforts to intensify cooperation and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in Southeast Asia. These efforts conform to the current global trend by which the cooperation between nations is especially encouraged. In this respect, I believe that although with varying experiences learned by each respective country in national development, the groundwork for successful national development is similar. That is, the real determination and appropriate abilities to cope with the changing situations. Each country should help the other to protect its respective interests.

"I congratulate Vietnam on its participation in the Southeast Asian Treaty of Amity, Friendship and Cooperation and on its participation as an observer in other activities of the ASEAN bloc. Vietnam's participation in the Asian Regional Forum to be held in Thailand in 1994 will contribute to the maintenance of Asia-Pacific security.

"The Thai Government is ready to cooperate effectively in developing Indochina, particularly in the areas of trade, economic development, information, and communication."

"In his reply, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi said: I am very happy to visit the beautiful Kingdom of Thailand for the first time—the land of smiles with an unique and age-old culture, a fast-growing economy, and a hospitable people.

"The comrade general secretary sincerely thanked His Excellency Prime Minister Chuan Likphai for having invited him to visit Thailand and for the warm welcome, hospitality, and friendly sentiments that His Excellency the prime minister has reserved for the comrade general secretary and his entourage.

"On behalf of the Vietnamese people, the comrade general secretary conveyed to the Thai people the friendly regards and the fine sentiments from the Vietnamese people. He wished the Thai country prosperous and the Thai people happiness.

"After reviewing the Vietnamese-Thai relations following the many exchanges of visits by various high-level delegations and recalling the two countries' economic and cultural cooperation, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi said:

"We are happy to visit the Kingdom of Thailand at a time when Thailand is serving as chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee. We would like to avail

outselves of this opportunity to affirm Vietnam's policy toward the region as follows:

"1. Vietnam advocates a wide-open foreign policy of independence, sovereignty in accordance with the motto of diversifying and broadening relations with all nations in the world community on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; non-imposition of one's own will on the other; and noninterference in the other's internal affairs; settling disputes through peaceful negotiations; refraining from resorting to the use of force or threat of force; refraining from setting up alliances to oppose each other; promoting mutually-beneficial cooperation and equality in the interest of each country's development and for the benefit of peace and development in the world.

"2. On the basis of these principles, Vietnam attaches great importance to the broadening of its friendly and cooperative relations with other Asian-Pacific countries. Vietnam advocates strengthening its multifaceted cooperation with every neighboring country and with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. With its capacity as a member in the region, Vietnam is ready to join ASEAN at an appropriate time.

"3. Vietnam is ready to participate in various bilateral and multilateral dialogues, especially between countries in the region to find effective measures to ensure peace, stability, and security in the region on the basis of guaranteeing and respecting each country's security. In this spirit, Vietnam is ready to actively participate in the Regional Political and Security Forum on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity; noninterference into each other's internal affairs; developing equal relations with every country participating in the forum without doing anything that may affect a third country. Vietnam advocates turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, cooperation, and development that must be free from nuclear weapons and foreign military bases.

"4. Vietnam advocates settling through peaceful negotiations all disputes between countries, including disputes over territorial waters and off-shore islands in the Eastern Sea [South China Sea] in the spirit of equality, understanding, and mutual respect; respecting international and community laws and for the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea; respecting the sovereignty of sea-bordering countries in terms of exclusive economic zones and continental shelves. While actively conducting negotiations to find fundamental and long-term approaches, all parties concerned should maintain stability on the basis of maintaining the status quo self-restraint, refraining from doing anything that may complicate the situation, refraining from resorting to the use of force or the threat of force, and joining forces in seeking appropriate cooperation, including cooperation for development in those areas and under those forms acceptable to all parties concerned, possibly in the areas

of meteorology, hydrology, maritime, environment protection, rescue operations, and fighting sea piracy and drug trafficking."

While at the banquet, the comrade general secretary was entertained with a Thai variety show, and he later exchanged flower bouquets with the Thai stage performers.

VNA Reports on Banquet Speeches

*BK1610094593 Hanoi VNA in English 0855 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[*"Party General Secretary Do Muoi Feted in Bangkok"*—VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct 16—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi was given a banquet in Bangkok yesterday evening by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

The Vietnamese party leader arrived in Bangkok yesterday morning for a four-day official visit to Thailand as guest of the Thai prime minister.

In his dinner speech Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said:

"I am very pleased to welcome Your Excellency and delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Thailand. This official visit reflects the ongoing cordial relations between Thailand and Vietnam which have been strengthened by the firm determination and continuous efforts of our two governments and peoples in reinforcing mutual trust and confidence as solid foundation for the lasting friendship between Thailand and Vietnam. With such a cordial relationship, our two countries will be able to advance further our constructive cooperation in various fields. It will also facilitate the friendly settlement of any difficulties that affect the Thai-Vietnamese relations.

"Your Excellency's visit to Thailand is of great significance. Not only is it important event in the history of Thai-Vietnamese relations, the visit is also a confirmation of the Thai Government's policy in promoting friendly ties with all countries. I also would like to take this moment to convey through Your Excellency to the Vietnamese Government and people my profound gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to his royal highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and her royal highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon during their visits to Vietnam in November 1992 and February 1993, respectively. The Thai Government strongly believes that the friendly Thai-Vietnamese relations are vital to Southeast Asia as they would help bring about cooperation, prosperity, and stability to this region as a whole.

"I have learned with pleasure about the progress of the development in Vietnam and, therefore, would like to applaud these achievements. I am glad that Thailand has played a constructive role which contributes to the success of Vietnam. During Your Excellency's visit, we

are honoured that some of our experiences in national development, as well as the use of appropriate technology in various development projects, will be presented to Your Excellency's attention.

"Besides our bilateral relations, I am convinced that Your Excellency's official visit to Thailand as well as your visit to other ASEAN countries reflect a sincere determination of Vietnam to participate in the regional efforts to foster cooperation and to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

"These efforts conform to current global trends where mutual cooperation is highly encouraged. In this regard, I am convinced that although each country possesses different experiences in national development, the foundation for such successful development is similar, namely, genuine determination and ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Consequently, as the situation requires every country to help each other to ensure attainment of mutual benefits on the basis of amicable relations and equality, one should adopt these principles and promote greater interdependence in a sincere and constructive manner. In this connection, I would like to congratulate Vietnam on the accession of the treaty of amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia as well as to welcome Vietnam's participation as an ASEAN observer and in other ASEAN activities. More importantly, it is hoped that the participation of Vietnam in the forthcoming ASEAN regional forum to be held in Thailand next year would significantly contribute to the security of Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

"Apart from her willingness to contribute to the strengthening of Thai-Vietnamese relations, the Thai Government stands ready to cooperate constructively in the development of Indochina particularly in the areas of human resources development, trade and economic cooperation, and communication network".

In reply General Secretary Do Muoi said:

"I have had a useful talk with his excellency the prime minister, Mr. Chuan Likphai, and other leading officials of the Government of Thailand in the spirit of friendship, sincerity and mutual understanding. We are pleased that the results of the talk have ushered in new prospects for the relations between our two countries.

"Vietnam and Thailand are close neighbours, our two peoples have forged between them age-old links. After all the ups and downs, the relations between them age-old links. After all the ups and downs, the relations between our two countries have over the past period seen new development. We both are closing the past and heading toward a future of bright prospects.

"The reciprocal visits by our two prime ministers and the visits to Vietnam by his royal highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and her royal highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon have taken the Thai-Vietnamese relations into a new period. Our bilateral

cooperation is constantly expanded and enhanced in economy, trade, culture, science-technology and other fields.

"It is my hope that our visit to beautiful Thailand will contribute to further strengthening the mutual understanding and trust between our two peoples, and to the promotion of our cooperation on the principles of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. We wish that this cooperation will develop ever further in the interests of the prosperity of each country, and of peace, stability, cooperation and development in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

"After years of struggle for independence, freedom and national reunification, we have an ardent aspiration to live in peace and stability to develop our country. Our process of renewal has made very important initial achievements, creating the premise for our next steps of development. We are glad to visit the Kingdom of Thailand at a time when Thailand is assuming the high responsibility as president of the Permanent Committee of ASEAN. On this occasion, we wish to reaffirm Vietnamese policy toward the region as follows:

1. "Vietnam pursues an independent, sovereign and open foreign policy along the line of diversification and multilateralization of its relations with all countries in the international community on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other, non-imposition and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, settlement of disputes through peaceful negotiation, non-use of force or threat of force, non-formation of alliances against each other, and equal and mutually beneficial cooperation for the development interests of each country, and for peace and development in the world.

2. "Acting on those principles, Vietnam attaches importance to the broadening of its friendship and cooperation with countries in Asia and the Pacific.

"Vietnam is for strengthening its multi-sided cooperation with each and every neighbouring country as well as with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as a regional organization. Vietnam is prepared to join ASEAN at an appropriate time.

3. "Vietnam is ready to take part in bilateral and multilateral dialogues, first of all those among regional countries, to seek effective measures to ensure peace, stability and security in the region on the basis of guarantee and respect for the security of each country.

"In that spirit, Vietnam is prepared to take an active part in the regional political and security forum on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. It will also develop equal relations with each and every forum member country and will not do any harm to a third country.

"Vietnam is for turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, cooperation and development, free from nuclear weapons and foreign military bases.

4. "Vietnam is for settlement through peaceful negotiations all disputes between countries, including those over territorial waters and islands in the East Sea, in the spirit of equality, mutual understanding and respect, respect for international laws and the 1982 Convention on the Laws of the Sea, and respect for the sovereignty of the sea-bordering countries over their exclusive economic zones and continental shelves. While efforts are being made to promote negotiations for a fundamental and sustainable solution, it is necessary to maintain stability by preserving the status-quo. The concerned parties should practice self-restraint, refrain from any act further complicating the situation and from the use of force or threat of force, and join each other in the search for an appropriate cooperation, including development cooperation in places and forms acceptable to all concerned parties. In the immediate future, this cooperation can be effected in the fields of hydro-meteorology, maritime navigation, environmental protection, salvage, anti-piracy and anti-drug trafficking, etc".

General Secretary Do Muoi concluded:

"We are glad to note that over the past two years, the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Thailand have made new steps forward. We welcome and sincerely thank the Government of Thailand for attaching importance to the promotion of relations with Vietnam, notably in the fields of economy, trade, science-technology and culture. We wish that our two countries will further expand our cooperation in many fields in the spirit of equality, mutual benefit and good neighbourliness, and that the age-old relations between our two nations will be given new strength and raised to a new height, with greater efficiency"

Do Muoi's 16 Oct Activities Detailed

BK1710072593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him this morning toured Saha Union Group, which is one of Thailand's leading industrial estates. Former Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, chairman of Saha Union Group, introduced to the Vietnamese guests the various activities and achievements of the group over the past 30 years. According to Mr. Anan Panyarachun, the group now has 20,000 employees and the value of its annual gross product reaches nearly half a billion U.S. dollars.

After recalling the good impressions of his visit to Vietnam in his capacity as Thai prime minister, Mr. Anan said: The political ties between our two countries have changed for the better, thus providing the groundwork for economic cooperation and development. Saha Union Group now has four investment projects in Vietnam.

Next, Chairman Anan guided the Vietnamese guests on a tour of a number of shops of a shoe-making enterprise under the group's management. The area of the production site covers more than 200 hectares of land in Bangkok's suburbs. Thousands of employees wearing uniforms and holding Vietnamese and Thai flags lined up along the road leading to the entrance to the enterprise to welcome General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him.

While there, General Secretary stopped to talk with employees of both sexes, asking questions about the production process and the employees' living conditions and wishing everyone good health.

Earlier, General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him visited the Stock Exchange of Thailand in Bangkok. Professor Anan Sithanya introduced the stock exchange's activities to the delegation and invited everyone to tour its support service and technical facilities. The Stock Exchange of Thailand was set up in 1974. So far, 341 companies have joined this organization with 400 stocks. General Secretary Do Muoi expressed the hope that the Stock Exchange of Thailand would share its valuable experience with Vietnam and help it with management cadre and personnel training.

This afternoon, General Secretary Do Muoi and the comrades accompanying him left Bangkok for a visit to Thailand's northernmost provinces. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Minister Phonthep Techaphaibun accompanied the delegation.

Do Muoi Received by Thai King

BK1710154793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] As earlier reported, after leaving Bangkok, General Secretary Do Muoi visited Narathiwat and Songkla Provinces in southern Thailand.

In Narathiwat province, General Secretary Do Muoi—accompanied by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai—was granted an audience with His Majesty the King of Thailand. General Secretary Do Muoi expressed his thanks to the king of Thailand and the Thai Government and people for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his entourage. General Secretary Do Muoi, on behalf of the Vietnamese Communist Party and people, wished their majesties the king and queen of Thailand and the royal families happiness and prosperity. He briefed His Majesty the King of Thailand on the fine results attained in his talks with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai. He asked the Thai King—in the capacity as the most prestigious person in the kingdom—to extend help to develop the bilateral relations between Thailand and Vietnam, thereby creating favorable conditions for the two governments to discuss and further promote bilateral cooperation.

His Majesty the King of Thailand warmly welcomed General Secretary Do Muoi. He thanked the Vietnamese

Government and people for the warm welcome extended to the crown prince and princess, who visited Vietnam several months ago. The Thai King asserted the necessity to strengthen cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam and other countries in the region so as to contribute to maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia. His Majesty the King showed keen interest in the Vietnamese situation and highly appraised the renovation process in Vietnam. He stressed that Thailand and Vietnam should strengthen economic cooperation for mutual interest. The Thai king said: I believe that, with their intelligence and enthusiasm, the Vietnamese people will help their country to develop quickly.

After leaving Narathiwat Province, General Secretary Do Muoi visited Songkla Province where the governor hosted a banquet in honor of the Vietnamese delegation. During his stay in the province, General Secretary Do Muoi visited the Erawan Natural Gas Field in the Gulf of Thailand. This is the country's first natural gas field, which has been exploited since 1983, with a production capacity of 1.3 million tonnes annually. Thailand is making preparation to lay a 454-meter undersea pipeline to supply natural gas to factories.

On 17 October, General Secretary Do Muoi left Songkla for the northern province of Chiang Mai. In the evening of the same day, the governor of Chiang Mai hosted a banquet in honor of General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage.

Commentary Hails Visit

*BK1810130093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 18 Oct 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The four-day visit to Thailand by Vietnamese party leader Do Muoi is concluded. The Vietnamese leader has met with the Thai King as well as business leaders who are committed to further develop economic ties with Vietnam. Here is our radio editor's comment:

The visit to Thailand by the Vietnamese party leader will further strengthen bilateral relations. In recent years, Thailand as well as some other ASEAN countries such as Malaysia and Singapore have invested in Vietnam. Historically, the two countries—Thailand and Vietnam—have experienced turbulent times. But over the past two years, Thailand has nearly caught up with other regional countries in their investment in Vietnam. Private [investment] has been made in many fields.

The two countries have signed 10 economic agreements. Two-way trade turnover increased from U.S.\$65 million in 1990 to U.S.\$158 million in 1992. In investment, Thailand has 41 projects in Vietnam with the total capital of U.S.\$134 million. Thai businessmen are interested in setting up corporations in many fields in Vietnam such as agriculture, mining, construction, and tourism.

Since early this year, over 500 Thai businessmen have come to Vietnam. In the Thai ambassador's opinion, the figure will be much higher. Obviously, these achievements are a firm background to the development of bilateral relations. The first visit to Thailand by the party general secretary is considered the significant step in the development of Vietnam-Thailand relations. The visit is made following the recent visit to Vietnam by the Thai crown prince and princes last year and early this year. As Mr. Do Muoi said: The two countries can close the past and look forward to the brighter future for bilateral relations.

Phan Van Khai Meets U.S. Figures While at UN

*BK1610104393 Hanoi VNA in English 0645 GMT
16 Oct 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 16—During his stay in the United States early this month for the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly, Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai met with representatives of many organizations and people of various strata who are interested in the development of the U.S.-Vietnam relations.

Speaking to the Vietnamese leader, many American scholars who specialize in international economic, social and political issues of the Foreign Relations Council, Asian Association, and especially in Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, highly appreciated the achievements in the renovation policy of Vietnam and expressed their wish for early normalization of the U.S.-Vietnam relations in the interest of the two peoples.

The deputy prime minister met with representatives of dozens of American non-governmental organizations which have assistance projects in Vietnam and American friends who have constantly supported Vietnam in struggle for national liberation as well as in the present national construction and development.

Representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. which has a membership of 2 million paid a courtesy visit to Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai. They thanked to the government and people of Vietnam for their cooperation in the solving of the MIA issue in recent years. These organizations affirmed their support for early embargo lifting and U.S.-Vietnam relations normalization.

On October 9, Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai met with more than 100 Vietnamese residents representing the overseas Vietnamese community in the USA and Canada. Speaking at the event, Mr. Khai, on behalf of the government, affirmed its national solidarity policy, and wished the overseas Vietnamese a peaceful and prosperous life, and he said he hoped that they would make further contributions to national development.

Vu Oanh Addresses Youth Association Gathering

BK1410093093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The Central Committee of the Vietnam Youth Association organized a traditional get-together in Hanoi on the morning of 13 October to mark the association's 37th anniversary, which falls on 15 October 1993. Attending the function were cadres of all generations in charge of the association.

Speaking on this occasion, Political Bureau member Comrade Vu Oanh praised youths nationwide for their great contributions to national defense and construction. The Vietnam Youth Association is truly a venue for uniting and rallying youths so they can bring their strengths into play and cover all areas of activity. Through its four programs of action for the 1993-95 period, the association has achieved practical results. Its organization has been strengthened with each passing day. In the days ahead, the association should consolidate its organization a step further and rally youths to work toward the goals of making the people rich and the nation powerful, bringing about civilization in society, and making a worthy contribution to the cause of national renovation.

Vu Oanh Pays Working Visit To Hoa Binh Province

BK1410124593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, recently paid a working

visit to Hoa Binh Province. In his talk with local cadres, party members, and people, Comrade Vu Oanh took into account the fact that being fully aware of the need to renovate the rural economy, Hoa Binh has boldly applied the experiences learned from the people of neighboring provinces. It has shifted the cultivation of low-yield food crops to high-yield fruit trees and industrial crops and promoted animal husbandry based on the province's own strengths. He reminded local cadres and people of the need to sum up practical experiences, improve the contents of guiding principles, increase the number of good models, and create conditions for everyone to participate in production and social activities.

New Radio, Television Facilities for Lao Cai City

BK1510100693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] The Lao Cai Radio and Television Station has built two new radio and television broadcasting facilities. The radio broadcasting facility houses a sound room and a short-wave radio transmitter. They have been put into operation since early September.

Meanwhile, the television facility which is located in the heart of Lao Cai city is to have relatively modern equipment. Its construction is expected to be completed and put into operation by early November to mark the 43th anniversary of the liberation of Lao Cai.

